

Teachers call strikes to hit 2.5m pupils

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

Up to two-and-a-half million children in nearly 10,000 schools are the targets of a new round of half-day strikes announced yesterday by the two biggest teaching unions.

The strikes will be spread over the next three weeks in 30 of the 104 local education authorities in England and Wales. The action will be planned to cause the greatest possible disruption.

The unions, the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, which represent three-quarters of classroom teachers, pledged that their campaign would continue until the Government restored negotiating rights.

Parents' representatives greeted the news with "despair".

The Secondary Heads Association issued a warning that schools were "on the brink of an abyss" and called on Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to reopen talks with the unions.

Every teacher who takes action will have pay reimbursed by the union. The unions say it will cost an

average of £12 a head and claim that they can sustain it "for months if not years".

The 10 areas selected for strikes next week are: Sunderland, Cheshire, Calderdale, Kirklees, Hereford and Worcester, Norfolk, Surrey, Avon, Gwynedd and Inner London. The areas contain

Hereford and Worcester County Council instigated legal action for damages yesterday against the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers.

Its claim for £48,000 after a half-day strike last November includes the cost of bringing in supply teachers and the wasted wages of other school staff. The council says the action was taken without a ballot, contrary to law.

"It is only a temporary measure until the unions come forward with their own proposals. But they have not come forward, and I have been asking them since last November."

In Scotland, Mr John Pollock, general secretary of the biggest teaching union, the Educational Institute of Scotland, said that events south of the border vindicated his members' decision to accept a pay-and-conditions deal very similar to the one rejected by teachers in England and Wales.

Half-day strikes yesterday in Cornwall and in Hereford and Worcester led to thousands of children being sent home at lunchtime. Hundreds of schools will be closed today in Lancashire, Dorset, Leeds, Solihull, Cambridgeshire, Kent, Hampshire, Surrey and Dorset.

Mr Baker, who was visiting Manchester, Business School to launch an IBM computer project worth £2 million, res-

more than one million children in nearly 4,500 schools.

Both unions disclosed that they were also considering instituting a "work to rule".

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, deputy general secretary of the NAS/UTW, said one suggestion was the introduction of time sheets to record hours worked. Mr Baker's new contract requires teachers to work at their heads' direction for 1,265 hours a year, or 32½ hours a week.

The Professional Association of Teachers, the smallest of the six unions, which is pledged not to strike, said yesterday that it had been "saturated" with inquiries and that these were being translated into a "steady stream" of new members.

Mr Baker, who was visiting Manchester, Business School to launch an IBM computer project worth £2 million, res-

First marriage service by a woman



Miss Sylvia Mutch, a deacon, who yesterday became the first woman to conduct an Anglican wedding service in the United Kingdom, with Mr Alistair Dearnley and Miss Heather Irvine, the couple she married in York. Report page 3.

Labour backs Kinnock on arms

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock appeared yesterday to have swung the Labour Party behind his decision to tell President Reagan next week that American cruise missiles will be allowed to remain in Britain so long as the superpower disarmament talks are in progress.

The change in stance, known until yesterday to only a handful of Mr Kinnock's frontbenchers and close advisers, won the enthusiastic backing of the large majority of the Shadow Cabinet and Labour MPs. The left-wing members were displaying an obvious reluctance to rock the boat so soon after last week's renewed internal troubles over defence and so close to the American visit.

Although some left-wingers were worried about what they thought could be seen as a watering down of policy to placate the centre-right, they confined their public reservations to a call that the disarmament talks should not be allowed to drag on indefinitely, and that Labour should set a one year limit on the removal of cruise. That idea was swiftly rejected by leadership sources who said that such a limit would be unrealistic.

While Conservative and Alliance politicians attacked Labour's new position as illogical, Mr Denis Davies, the shadow defence secretary confirmed that, as disclosed in *The Times*, Mr Kinnock will tell Mr Reagan next Friday that cruise can stay in Britain while the superpower talks, to remove all intermediate nuclear forces in Britain, continue.

Mr Davies said that the Labour Party had always favoured the zero option for no intermediate missiles in Europe.

"Now it looks as if the zero option has got a very good chance of coming about, we certainly would not do anything in our party, as a government, to disrupt negotiations or to upset any agreement."

He made clear that party policy had always emphasized unilateral and multilateral actions to get rid of nuclear weapons.

The climate in the world had changed, Russia was a different place; there was a different leader, and public and political thinking in America was different.

Senior figures on the centre-right are hoping that Mr Kinnock will emphasize next week that the flexibility over timing will apply equally to other American weapons, and its bases, in Britain.

Officials in the US declined to make any comment yesterday.

Tories aim attack at Alliance

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Conservative strategists have chosen this weekend's rally of 600 party activists in Torquay to launch an unprecedented attack on the Alliance in an attempt to head off its steady rise in the polls.

The onslaught, which will seek to exploit the tenth anniversary of the Liberal-Labour pact by painting the Alliance as closet socialists, will be led by Mr Norman Tebbit, the party chairman, supported by seven other Cabinet ministers.

Mr Margaret Thatcher, in her first big speech after the Budget, and the last before her trip to Moscow at the end of the month, will also, in a speech, attack the Alliance as it winds up the central council meeting on Saturday.

The switch in Tory tactics, against a background of growing election fever at Westminster and pressure from Conservative Central Office, senior ministers and backbenchers for a June election if the signs remain right, has been triggered by a rise in Alliance support since the autumn and its handsome victories in the Greenwich and Truro by-elections.

According to the MORI polls, support for the centrist coalition has risen from a low point of 17 per cent after the Liberal conference at Eastbourne to 25 per cent, narrowing the gap between the Alliance and Labour from 22 points to seven.

The Torquay gathering, under the umbrella of "Moving Forward", will seek to build on the Budget and give impetus to the momentum of gains at Bournemouth.

Dr David Owen said yesterday the Alliance "had seen nothing yet" from the Tories.

Base rate comes down to 10% and further cut likely

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The reward for Mr Lawson's budgetary caution came swiftly yesterday with a half percentage point cut in bank base rates to 10 per cent.

A further half-point reduction is thought likely in the City within the next week or two, which would be enough to bring down mortgage rates by at least 1 percentage point.

A 1 point fall would bring most home loan rates down to 11½ per cent, but society gave warning that the drop in base rates so far was not enough.

Mr Tim Melville-Ross, chief general manager of the Nationwide, the third-largest society, said: "We are still waiting. But if there were a significant downward move by our competitors, particularly the banks, we would have to lower our rates as well."

A ¾-percentage point cut, including the tax alterations, would mean a drop of about £8 in monthly repayments on a £30,000 repayment mortgage, from £217 to £209 a month.

Yesterday, the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, said he did not want to rush the process of bringing interest rates down. "It is right to be cautious and prudent", he said.

But his hand may be forced by the strong buoyancy in the pound. Yesterday's cut in base rates did little to stem the enthusiasm for sterling which surged over the benchmark rate of \$1.60 to close in London a cent higher at \$1.607½.

Mr Lawson said he was "perfectly content with the present level of the exchange rate". He was less prepared to see any further rise now than he was after the agreement of

the group of six leading industrialized countries in Paris last month because of the potential threat to Britain's competitiveness in world markets.

He repeated that Britain was "most unlikely" to become a full member of the European Monetary System before the election.

The Chancellor, speaking of possible tax reforms if the Government were re-elected.

Aids fear hits life insurance

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Any single male applying for life insurance was now regarded as a potential Aids risk, MPs were told last night.

Such an application would immediately be "cause for inquiry", Mr Hugh Jarvis, chairman of the Life Reassurers Committee of the Association of British Insurers told the Social Services Select Committee.

Single males would be asked questions about their lifestyle "and if further inquiry shows a person really is living on their own or living in a monogamous relationship the likelihood is that they will get acceptance at the basic premium or a modest increase".

Mr Richard Zamboni, chairman of the Association's Life Insurance Council, said even those merely carrying the virus were now considered "uninsurable".

In separate evidence, the Association of District Councils called for compulsory powers to licence hairdressers, acupuncturists, ear-piercers and tattooists, some of whose low standards could help spread Aids.

The ADC also criticized the Government for failing to supply central guidelines to local authorities on the Aids risks. Staff at places such as swimming pools and leisure centres had no guidance on how to deal with accidents involving bleeding.

Aids vaccine, page 7

INSIDE 'Abusive' doctor is struck off

Dr Jennifer Colman-Archer, who used abusive language to hospital colleagues and failed to treat patients properly, was ordered to be struck off the medical register by the General Medical Council. Page 5

TIMES BUSINESS Bank payoffs

Morgan Grenfell, the merchant banking group, has paid its former chief executive and its former head of corporate finance a total of £560,000 in compensation for their resignations in January. Page 25

TIMES SPORT Aintree mount

Richard Dunwoody will, after all, partner West Tip in next month's Grand National but not in the Cheltenham Gold Cup today. Page 40

TIMES JOBS Human assets

A company's employees are its greatest asset and must be properly looked after, says an introduction to today's light page General Appointments section. Pages 41-48

TIMES FOCUS

Four years since the start of the National Quality Campaign, the Government is more determined than ever to increase industry's involvement. Pages 31-33

Portfolio Gold

● The Times Portfolio Gold daily competition prize of £4,000 was shared by three readers yesterday. Details, page 3.
● Portfolio list, page 29.

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Research spending in EEC under fire

From Richard Owen, Brussels

The European Parliament's Research and Technology Committee yesterday condemned Britain, France and West Germany for refusing to increase spending on research and development in the EEC.

The all-party committee, meeting here, said that the apparent determination of the Ministers of the 12 to hold down research spending to £2.8 billion was damaging and short-sighted.

The framework research programme of 5½% billion proposed by the Commission for the next five years is designed to enable European industries to compete effectively with Japan and America in the 1990s.

Mr. Amédée Turner, Conservative MEP for Suffolk and the Euro-Tories research spokesman, gave a warning that thousands of British and other European research workers faced job losses unless more research funding was approved. British industries and universities had a great deal to offer, and British companies benefited from investment in joint European programmes because they got more back as well as putting more in.

It was paradoxical, he said, that the British Government supported EEC technology programmes such as Esprit, Britte and Race, yet was obstructing further funding.

Mr Glyn Ford, Labour MEP for Greater Manchester East and a member of the Parliament's Research Committee, attacked Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Minister for Information Technology, for saying that it was better to ease the

tax burden on entrepreneurs than to spend more on research. This had found no echo even among Conservative Euro MPs, Mr Ford said.

Lord Cockfield, the Commissioner for the Internal Market and Britain's senior EEC Commissioner, yesterday said that the Commission was taking steps to ensure that in future government contracts - worth a total £300 million throughout the EEC - were open to tenders from any company in any EEC member state.

Except for public procurement in the defence field, Freeze on research 2

which would remain under national control, public contracts in transport, energy, or telecommunications had to be open to cross-frontier competition, Lord Cockfield said.

Under his proposal, which has to be approved by the Council of Ministers, any company which felt it had lost a contract because companies within the EEC nation concerned had been unfairly favoured would be able to take legal action. The Commission would be empowered to order a delay in the signing of the contract while court proceedings were undertaken.

A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry said last night that the reason for the UK's coolness to the framework programme was a desire for "quality of research, not quantity" (Robert Matthews writes).

'56p tax rate' under Labour

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

A Commons row broke out last night when Mr John MacGregor, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, claimed that he had costed Labour's programme of spending pledges at £34 billion, which would mean raising the standard rate of income tax to 56p in the £.

Mr Roy Hattersley, the Shadow Chancellor, hit back by accusing Mr MacGregor of making up the figures as he went along.

Mr Hattersley said Labour was committed to only two spending packages. The first was a £5 billion programme to cut unemployment by 1 million within two years. That would be paid for by keeping borrowing at the level that Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, had intended before he cut it by £3 billion in his latest Budget, and by reversing the 2p tax cut.

The second commitment was a £2.6 billion anti-poverty package.

Previously Mr MacGregor had costed Labour's plans at £28 billion. Yesterday he said that, following indications from Mr John Prescott, Labour's employment spokesman, that plans for a 35-hour week, a minimum wage and early retirement had been scrapped, he had cut the total, but he had been forced to raise it to £34 billion after new policy pledges.

Mr MacGregor estimates that the items now "lost" from Labour's programme amount to £8.1 billion. He has also cut £180 million of pledges by Mr Norman Buchan, former arts spokesman.

But he has added £13.8 billion for a pledge to increase pensions. He has also apparently raised the total by £120 million for an increased Christmas bonus, £180 million for a promised winter premium, and £630 million for extra spending on the health service.

Parliament, page 4

Missing scientist in defence mystery

By Tony Dawe

An international search has been launched for a missing British defence specialist engaged on work linked with the Star Wars space programme.

Detectives are investigating possible links between the disappearance of Mr Avtar Singh-Gida and the unexplained deaths of two computer specialists working on similar defence projects.

Last night MPs from the three main parties called for a Government statement on the security implications of the deaths and disappearance of the key defence workers.

All three were dealing with major underwater projects which could help locate submarines at vast depths and which also have implications for the Star Wars programme.

Mr Singh-Gida was last seen with a colleague near a Derbyshire reservoir where they were conducting an experiment on underwater acoustics. The two men separated for lunch and Mr Singh-Gida disappeared. Police frogmen searched the reservoir but found nothing.

The Derbyshire police have now asked Interpol to check Mr Singh-Gida's family addresses in India, Pakistan and Canada. His wife, Vail, said at their Loughborough, Leicestershire, home: "There is no logical explanation. He was about to collect his PhD from Loughborough University after four years' work."

The police are particularly concerned about his disappearance because of his

friendship with Mr Vimal Dajibhai, a defence specialist, whose death seven months ago remains a mystery. Mr Dajibhai, who worked for Marconi, spent three years perfecting computer programmes on the Tigris wire-guided air-to-sea missile.

He was found dead last August beneath the Clifton suspension bridge, Bristol, one of Britain's most popular suicide spots. But Mr Dajibhai, of Kenton, north London, had no connection with Bristol and had just been appointed to a well-paid job with a City of London computer company.

Mr Indira Sandhu, a friend and colleague at Marconi, said: "I spent several days after his death trying to establish just what had happened without success. I could not believe it was suicide."

Mr Sandhu was one of 12 friends and family who provided Mr Donald Hawkins, the Bristol coroner, with character assessments showing there was no reason for Mr Dajibhai to commit suicide.

Mr Hawkins returned an open verdict after hearing evidence of an unexplained puncture mark on the dead man's buttock and that he was found with his trousers around his ankles.

The coroner called for a police investigation after another Marconi computer specialist was found dead just outside the city two months later. Mr Ashraf Sharif died after apparently tying one end

Helicopter crash kills two soldiers

Bonn - Two British soldiers were killed and another three injured, one of them seriously, when a Lynx helicopter crashed in West Germany yesterday (John England writes).

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NEWS SUMMARY

Jail term over library books

A mother, aged 22, was jailed for seven days yesterday for failing to pay court fines imposed over the non-return of nine library books.

Probation officers made emergency arrangements to collect Mrs Sharon Gordon's son, aged six, from school after Wolverhampton magistrates jailed her. Last night the child was staying with grandparents.

Mrs Gordon, of Farnside Estate, Wolverhampton, had been fined £111.30 by magistrates at a previous hearing for failure to return the books. She was given a 14-day suspended sentence last October but magistrates heard Mrs Gordon told the court that she lived on social security benefit and that her income was only £22 a week and her outgoings £26.

Brighton trial

Russell Bishop, aged 19, of Stephens Road, Brighton, was committed for trial yesterday, accused of the murder of two schoolgirls.

Magistrates at Hove, Sussex, refused an application for bail after an 11-day hearing.

The bodies of Karen Hadaway and Nicola Fellows, both aged nine, were found in a park at Brighton last October. They had both been strangled.

Mr Bishop, who has pleaded not guilty, left the dock in tears, and shouted: "I am innocent. I hope you realize that."

Clean-up Prince

The Prince of Wales launched the European Year of the Environment (EYE) yesterday.

At Cargo Fleet, Cleveland, the site of former ironworks and part of the region's 4,000 derelict acres, the Prince said EYE was a chance to boost a Europe-wide renovation.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, said he was granting £1 million to demolish a disused power station in Cleveland.

Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State, announced a £750,000 grant to support EYE.

Royal respects

A wreath from the Prince of Wales and a spray of flowers from the Queen were placed on the coffin of the former royal nanny Helen Lightbody who was buried yesterday.

The handwritten card on the tribute from the Prince, who was in her care until the age of six and always maintained contact, read: "For Nana, in loving memory of early childhood - Charles".

The former nanny was buried in her home town of Jedburgh in the Scottish borders. She died at a convent nursing home in Hawick at the weekend, aged 79.

Eight are released

Detectives investigating the existence of an alleged "private army" in the Midlands last night released eight people who were arrested in raids which led to the seizure of firearms, weapons manuals and military-style uniforms.

The seven men and a woman were not charged and were given police bail at Tamworth, Staffordshire, pending forensic examination of several weapons. Police said a number of people could face firearms and public order charges.



Space projects money 'being wasted'

By Sheila Gunn Political Staff

Much of the Government's spending on space projects is going to waste because the funds are inadequate, according to the Natural Environment Research Council.

It also accepted that the money available may be wasted because civil projects were carrying out the same research as that done by the Ministry of Defence without the research council's knowledge.

In evidence to the House of Lords science and technology select committee, the council argued for a £30 million budget for earth observation

projects which would help Britain "to earn a living".

Both the council and the all-party committee are hindered by the Government's delay in approving the British National Space Centre's first space plan.

The BNSC wants the space research budget raised from £100 million to nearly £300 million to enable Britain to take a leading role in European space developments, and to help to finance British initiatives.

But ministers from the Department of Trade and Industry are apparently opposed by colleagues at the Treasury who are against find-

ing any new money for research and development, which is not considered a "vote-winner".

The Cabinet's economic committee is expected to make a decision on the space plan at the same time as deciding whether to give £750 million in aid to British Aerospace for its Airbus programme.

The Natural Environment Research Council told the peers' committee that the success of BNSC "is dependent on achieving increased funds for the national effort" and having a workable organizational framework.

The present budget "is not

enough to ensure that the investments in space are adequately exploited for the nation's benefit".

It said: "It can be argued that the imbalances present in the current programmes inhibit investments in crucial areas such as applications development, the utilization of satellite technology and the development of the operational market".

The council complained that there was very little useful in the flow of information on MoD projects into the civil programme. Dr John Bowman, the council's secretary, said: "But we are not party to MoD research projects so we

do not know what we are missing".

● A lucrative breakthrough in computer technology developed at a government research centre may be lost to the Japanese because world patents have not been taken out.

Several Japanese firms are developing their own versions of the Supertwist flat computer screen and are planning to launch them on the commercial market this year.

Legal experts acting for the Ministry of Defence are trying to discover whether it is possible to take out retrospective world patents.

Pay rise puts freeze on research at universities

By Michael McCarthy and Robert Matthews

A freeze for at least six months on all new scientific research in British universities was declared last night by the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), which has to finance a 24 per cent pay award with no new money from the Government.

Hundreds of new research projects ranging from helicopter safety to pollution control will now have no chance of funding before September at the earliest.

The council said it had no alternative if it was to find the unplanned-for £8 million needed to finance its share of last month's pay award for university lecturers.

Some observers considered the dramatic nature of the freeze was designed to help the Secretary of State for Education and Science, Mr Kenneth Baker, to seek further government money.

The SERC chairman and chief executive, Professor Bill Mitchell, is meeting Mr Baker tomorrow morning to discuss the position.

Although the five research councils took no direct part in the university pay negotiations, the thousands of university researchers they employ will benefit from the award.

As they have received no new funds from the Government the councils must finance the award from their present budgets, which have already been allocated.

The SERC's £8 million is the largest shortfall, but the Medical Research Council must find an extra £4.2 mil-

lion, the Agricultural and Food Research Council £4 million, the Natural Environment Research Council £500,000 and the Social Research Council £300,000.

All face the prospect of cutting back on research projects to find the money, a situation described as outrageous earlier this week by Sir Walter Bodmer, Director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Ironically, the 24 per cent pay award was intended to reverse the shrinking of Britain's science base.

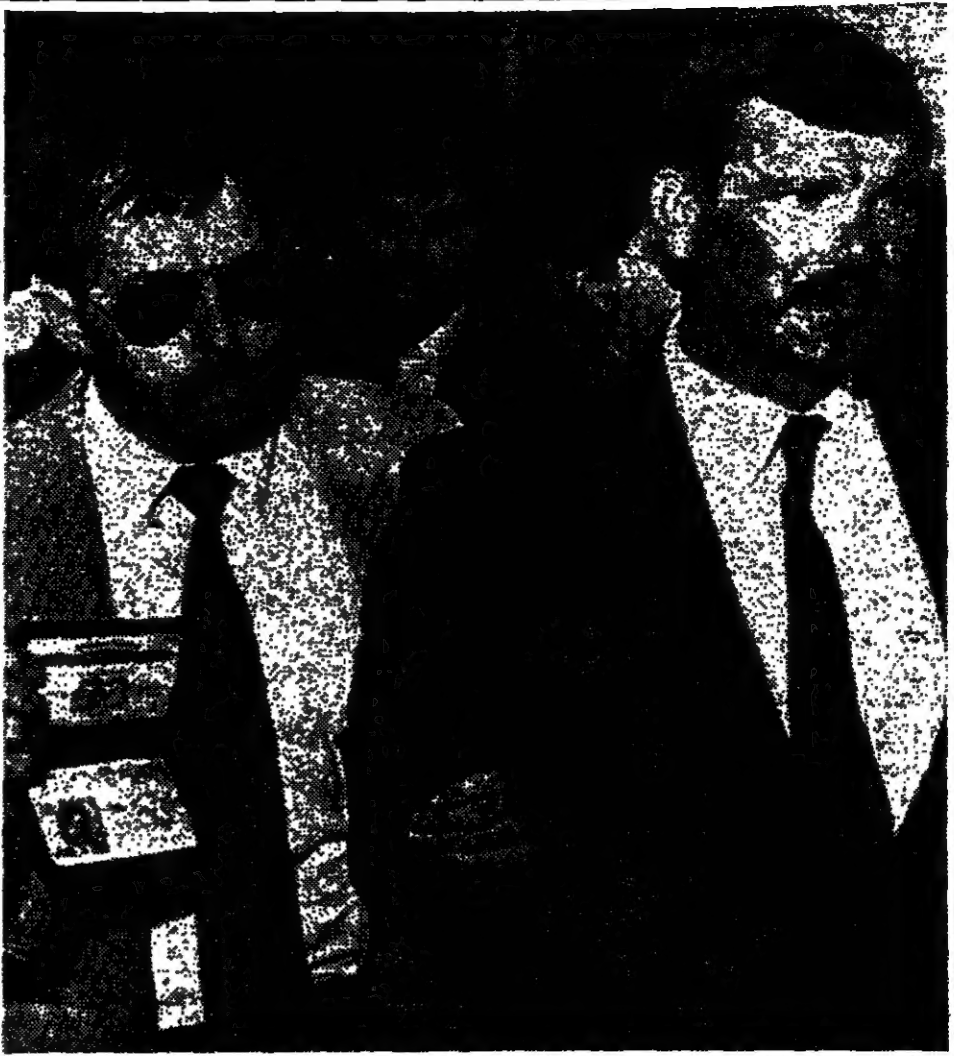
Yesterday's decision by the SERC was to cancel the current round of grant awards, for which applications were due by April 1. Normally the council would receive between 1,000 and 2,000 applications, of which perhaps 700 might receive funding.

The Astronomer Royal, Professor Sir Francis Graham Smith, said last night that he received the news of the freeze with absolute horror.

Sir Francis said that the Government should come up with the £8 million shortfall, because basic research was being affected.

Professor Denis Noble, of the Save British Science Campaign, said he was very perturbed by the decision, but could not see what else the SERC could do.

The Department of Education and Science said last night: "The Government is aware of the problem, and is considering it".



Mr Fleming being escorted aboard a London-bound plane by guards in Miami yesterday.

Water jets for riots ruled out

By Nicholas Wood

The use of water cannon against rioters was ruled out by the Government yesterday.

Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, said tests showed that they lacked manoeuvrability, quickly ran out of water and became vulnerable to attack.

The decision came after a lengthy evaluation by the Metropolitan Police, Home Office scientists and representatives of provincial police forces in the wake of the Toxteth and Brixton riots in 1981 and the Tottenham disturbances of 1985.

They examined the use of water cannon on the Continent and conducted trials using two British-built prototypes at a training centre in Greenwich, south London.

West German experience, in which water cannon have been successfully used to disperse rioters in open spaces was dismissed as of little relevance. In Britain they would probably be confined to the urban settings which have been the setting for recent disorders.

Water cannon were used unsuccessfully against demonstrators in Northern Ireland during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The cannon tested in London were difficult to manoeuvre in narrow British streets and their jets were too powerful. They could kill people caught close to the full blast, which was capable of overturning cars.

Mr Perry Rivkind, district director of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service in Miami, said he was awaiting confirmation from the State Department before going ahead with plans to deport Mr Fleming.

Mr Fleming, aged 45, who has so far managed to dodge the authorities by moving from one country to another, emerged from the aircraft smiling broadly only minutes after being led on board silent and sullen-faced.

Last autumn he was similarly removed from an aircraft bound for the Dominican Republic after Dominican officials revoked his visa.

He has spent the past seven

Fleming is given 24-hour reprieve

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

John Fleming, wanted for questioning over the £26 million Brink's Mat bullion robbery in 1983, won an eleventh-hour reprieve yesterday in his long-running fight to avoid returning to Britain.

Mr Fleming, handcuffed, stepped off an aircraft bound for London just 20 minutes before it was due to take off in Miami, Florida.

His lawyers won a 24-hour stay of deportation from a federal judge because Venezuela had granted him a visa. But the reprieve promises to be short-lived.

As a full hearing of the case began last night, Venezuela ordered its Miami consulate to revoke his travel visa.

Mr Benjamin Ortega, Venezuela's consul-general in Miami, said: "He is not welcome in our country. He will not be allowed to enter".

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Equality deadline for city's schools

By Sarah Thompson Education Reporter

A city that provides only one girl's place at a grammar school to every two boys' places has been accused of sex discrimination.

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) has thrown the Labour-controlled Birmingham City Council into confusion by setting a deadline at the end of this month for an acceptable solution to be found.

Mr Les Byron, the chairman of the education committee, favours the cutting of provision for boys to provide more places for girls.

As a result the move is likely to end in the forced closure of one of the city's four boys' grammar schools, three of which are part of the King Edward VI Foundation.

Such a move will probably encounter opposition from parents who have fought off frequent attempts by the council to end selection.

Mr Byron said yesterday: "My view is that democracy tends to get in the way of bringing the best quality into the curriculum".

Mr Martin Rogers, headmaster of the Foundation schools and Chief Master of the independent King Edward VI School for Boys, has called for the city to open a third girls' grammar school.

But this solution, said Mr Byron, would be impossible since the city as a whole already offers more places to girls than boys.

This was because of the high demand for single sex girls' schools from the ethnic minorities. The council, he said, was under pressure from auditors to cut empty places.

The EOC's demands were reported to councillors in a private session this week and legal advisers are now hastily working on a solution.

Ilea set to discipline teachers

By John Clare Education Correspondent

Teachers striking against the Labour-controlled Inner London Education Authority's policy of compulsory redeployment were warned yesterday they would be disciplined for misconduct.

The authority has decided to take an uncharacteristically tough line with militants who are trying to block its decision to force nearly 1,400 surplus teachers to move to schools which have unfilled vacancies.

Twice this week protesting members of the left-wing Inner London Teachers' Association have not only gone on strike but taken some of their pupils to demonstrate with them outside County Hall, the authority's headquarters.

Their action was condemned yesterday by Mr Bill Stubbs, the authority's chief executive. He said: "Teachers who are absent from their school without permission are in breach of their contract".

Ilea has been trying without success for two years to persuade teachers who have been made surplus by falling rolls to move voluntarily to where they are needed.

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March 19th

TONIGHT AT 9.00 TWO COACH LOADS OF O.A.P.'s BATTLE IT OUT IN A NIGHTCLUB.

Round one, Alan Bleasdale reunites two 'boys from the blackstuff', Michael Angelis and Bernard (Yosser) Hill as the new manager and bouncer of a nightclub on New Year's Eve.

Round two, cold turkey, warm beer, a dead rabbit and two rival groups of geriatrics in fancy dress who come out fighting. Judge's decision, an undisputed knockout.

Space link to missing researcher

Continued from page 1

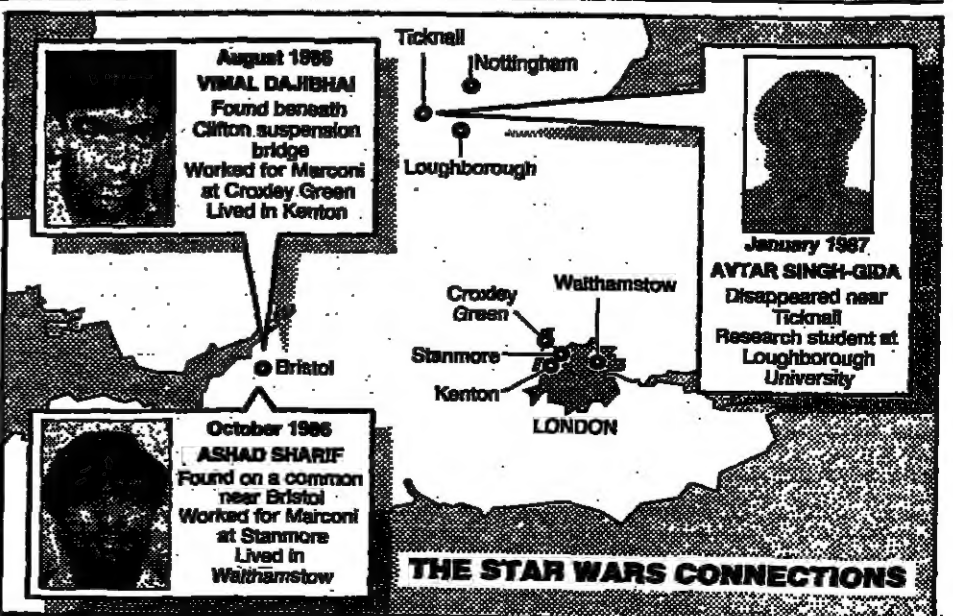
of a rope around a tree and the other around his neck, then getting into his automatic car and driving off.

A verdict of suicide was recorded, but the coroner spoke of a possible "James Bond" link between the two deaths. However, Avon and Somerset police could find no connection and enquiries have ceased.

But Mr Sharif's friends are convinced the suicide was "too perfect". Their concern is shared by Mr Eric Deakin, Labour MP for Walthamstow, who was due to meet his constituent the day he died.

Mr Deakin said: "He was coming to see me about getting his fiancée in from Pakistan. It was a routine matter. I understand he had just been promoted at work and, with his fiancée soon to arrive, I can see no reason why he should commit suicide."

The MP has written to Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, requesting a transcript of the final stages of the inquest and a copy of the police report.



Other MPs called last night for a Government statement on the security aspects of the affair. Mr John Cartwright, the Alliance defence spokesman, said: "These deaths and the disappearance are stretching coincidence too far, especially when you consider the sensitive nature of the work these men were engaged on".

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Wokingham, said he would pursue the matter urgently. MPs are concerned because Britain is well ahead of the Soviet Union in research into the fields the men were working on.

Mr Dajibhai worked on the Stingray, the only missile capable of locating the new "Mike"-type Russian nuclear attack submarine, which can launch weapons from a depth of 3,000m. Details of the Soviet submarine were published this week in *June's Defence Weekly*.

Mr Dajibhai's work, and that of Mr Singh-Gida on

underwater acoustics and Mr Sharif on vibrations, has implications for the Star Wars programme in which Marconi is participating.

Mr Tony Collins, a reporter with *Computer News*, who first wrote the story on the deaths, said yesterday that the computer simulation system, code-named Cosmos, which Marconi is working on, is three years ahead of similar developments in the United States and 10 years ahead of the Soviet Union.

Mr Dajibhai's work, and that of Mr Singh-Gida on

underwater acoustics and Mr Sharif on vibrations, has implications for the Star Wars programme in which Marconi is participating.

Wife forced to sign '£2 pocket money' marriage contract

A teacher made his wife sign a marriage contract after blaming her meddling parents for breaking up their happy home.

The eight-clause document limited the times she could see her relatives and the money she could spend.

Mrs Janet Staerck ran away to her parents after her husband, Stephen, hit her, and when she returned, he compelled her to write out two copies of the document, a divorce court judge said yesterday.

"If she protested he hit her and kicked her", Mrs Justice Booth said in the Family Division of the High Court when she granted Mrs Staerck, a former teacher aged 31, a decree nisi because of her husband's unreasonable behaviour.

The first condition of the contract was that the wife would not mention the name of her parents or relatives to the husband.

Second, she would visit her parents twice a month with the costs to come out of the family budget. She would not stay overnight but would return in time to cook the husband's evening meal.

Third, the parents could visit their daughter at her house once a month in the absence of the husband when it was convenient to him.

Fourth, the wife would be allowed just £2 a week personal spending from the family budget.

Fifth, no presents were to be bought for her family from the family budget.

Sixth, if her parents were sick or anything was wrong, visiting would not be allowed to exceed five days a year.

Seventh, if a relative died, she would be allowed two days to visit with the costs coming out of the family budget.

Eighth, if they moved to another part of the country she would be allowed two weeks a year to visit her parents.

One copy she signed and sent to her parents. They both signed a second copy and the husband kept it, but the wife had since destroyed it, the judge said.

Mr Staerck, aged 37, of Meadow Way, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, denied the validity of the document. But the judge said she believed the wife. The husband denied being unreasonable and said the marriage had gone wrong because of interference from the wife's parents.

The couple, who have a son, Robert, aged six, married in December 1979.

She first left him in the summer of 1983 after he hit her and tore her blouse. It was on her return the contract was signed, the judge said.

They finally parted in August 1984 after another incident of violence. She fled again to her parents and still lived with them at Watford Road, Croxley Green, near Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. She was adamant that the marriage had irretrievably broken down.

But Mr Staerck, who teaches social studies, denied it had broken down although they had not lived together for nearly three years.

Finding that it would be unreasonable to expect the wife to continue living with him the judge said: "It takes two to make a marriage".

After the hearing Mrs Staerck said: "It has been a dreadful experience and now I just want to get on with my life".

Her husband said: "I will appeal. I still care for my wife, but I don't know if it is love in the romantic sense."

"Marriage vows are lifelong and I must still explore the chance of resuming our relationship. There was not any contract, we just had a discussion. I'm devastated. This contract just did not exist."



A family walking hand-in-hand: Mrs Janet Staerck with her parents after she was granted a decree nisi yesterday.

Portfolio - Gold - Prize will pay for meal treat

Three readers shared yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000.

Mr Albert Wallis, aged 77, a retired staff foreman, was delighted. "You don't know what this means to me. I swapped over to *The Times* last year and never missed a game."

Mr Wallis, of Coodall Road, Leytonstone, east London, said he hoped to spend the money on treating his family to a restaurant meal. He would put the rest towards a trip to New Zealand.

Mr Martin Eves, aged 34, senior technician in the department of pathology at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, south-west London, said he would spend his prize on a family holiday.

Mr Duncan Beaton, aged 64, a retired Civil Servant, of King's Road, Longdridge, East Lothian, said he now had the chance to spend some money on his hobbies.

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

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The Times
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Blackburn
BB1 6AJ



Mr Albert Wallis: he has never missed a game

Jury in hotel

The Keith Blakelock trial jury spent its second night in a London hotel after failing to return verdicts yesterday. Three men deny murdering the PC on the Broadwater Farm estate in Tottenham, north London, in October 1985.

Victims of ferry disaster buried

Two victims of the Zebrugga ferry disaster, a soldier based in West Germany and a retired Metropolitan Police officer, were buried yesterday.

Lance-Corporal Gary Thomas, aged 23, was buried with full military honours at a requiem Mass at St Aidan's Church, in Huyton, Merseyside.

Corporal Thomas, who was with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in West Germany, was engaged to Miss Susan Lambert, whom he met after they became pen friends, and they were to have been married last Saturday.

More than a dozen Army colleagues and an Army chaplain from West Germany were among hundreds of mourners, who included two soldiers who had been on board the Herald of Free Enterprise.

Father Paul Thompson told the congregation that the three friends had struggled to save each other and fellow passengers.

Corporal Thomas was buried at Yew Tree cemetery, Liverpool. A bugle was sounded and an Army firing party fired three volleys.

More than 500 mourners packed the Guards Chapel in Whitehall for the funeral of Mr Peter Martin, a retired Metropolitan policeman and former Grenadier Guardsman.

They included policemen and staff from Lancing College, Sussex, where Mr Martin was a security marshal. Mr Martin, aged 53, who was hit 9ins, retired from the force two years ago.

He was on the ferry with his wife Kay, who suffered leg injuries, but attended the service. The couple had no children.

A guard of honour formed by Metropolitan Police officers met the cortege of family mourners.

The operation to right the capsized ferry was abandoned indefinitely yesterday because of bad weather.

A six-foot swell and near gale-force winds threatened to persist through to the weekend and put the March 27-30 target date for righting the vessel in jeopardy.

Meanwhile, Mr Peter Sturt, the Dover corper, and two British pathologists arrived in Zebrugga yesterday to prepare for the inquest on the ferry victims.

Letters, page 19

Sell-offs increase share ownership

The number of people owning shares has increased by 2.5 times in seven years, according to a survey commissioned by the Stock Exchange and the Treasury.

The survey, published yesterday, shows that about 7.5 million people, or 18 per cent of the adult population, own shares in publicly quoted companies. This compares with only 7 per cent of the adult population in 1979.

The privatization programme and the growth of employee share schemes were given as the main reasons for the increase in share ownership.

The privatization drive accounts for about 3.5 million shareholders, who do not have shares in any other company. A further 500,000 hold shares only because of employee share schemes.

The survey also indicates a lukewarm response so far for the Personal Equity Plan (PEP), announced in last year's Budget, which allows people to invest up to £2,400 a year in shares, with any income and capital gains being free of tax.

Only 1 per cent of those questioned had taken out a PEP.

The Chancellor announced in Tuesday's Budget that 2,000 people a day were taking out PEPs. Treasury officials said that these figures came from a different survey, which was possibly a more reliable guide.

The survey also showed that 8 per cent of the adult population owned only privatization shares, excluding applications for shares in British Airways, or shares in the Trustee Savings Bank.

Shareholders, including those who own shares in private companies and those quoted only on the over-the-counter market, total about 8.5 million, or 19.5 per cent of the population.

The survey, based on 7,000 interviews carried out in January and February this year, was commissioned partly because of conflicting evidence produced by earlier surveys.

Last April, a Treasury survey showed that 14 per cent of the adult population were shareholders, compared with a Stock Exchange survey in September 1985 which put the figure at 16 per cent.

Sterilization case may go to Lords

The ruling that a teenage girl with a mental age of five should be sterilized for her own good might now go to the House of Lords.

The Official Solicitor has four weeks in which to lodge the appeal he is considering. But time is pressing because once the girl, known as Jeannette, becomes 18 on May 20, nobody has the power to authorize her sterilization.

An operation cannot be carried out after that date even if the court ruling in favour was before, lawyers say.

Mr Cecil Emmerson, solicitor for Jeannette's mother, said yesterday that no action would be taken to arrange the operation while there was the possibility of an appeal. "No-one is going to proceed with undue haste", he said.

It was over a year ago that the girl, who is believed to be in a mixed home, started to show signs of sexual awareness. In her interests, her mother decided to seek the court's approval for sterilization.

In order for the girl to be separately represented, she was made a ward of court while the matter was decided.

The charity Mencap said yesterday it would welcome a further appeal. In the past two years it has had some 20 approaches from parents or hospitals over sterilizations.

It was particularly concerned about a report that a retarded girl aged 11 had been sterilized. "How is it that a girl like this is even allowed to be in a situation where she might become pregnant?", a spokesman asked.

Mencap's Midlands office said yesterday it knew of two mentally handicapped teenagers about to be sterilized at the request of their parents.

The operations are said to be imminent, but Mencap said the gynaecologists who had agreed to carry them out withdrew because of the public concern over the Court of Appeal ruling in the case of Jeannette.

Mr Martin Gallagher, Mencap's West Midlands officer, said that in both cases the decision to sterilize the girls was taken by their parents in consultation with medical advisers, including GPs and psychiatrists.

Both girls are under 18 and regarded as severely handicapped. They are living at home and neither local authorities nor courts were involved.

Another mentally handicapped girl, now aged 19, from Birmingham, was sterilized more than a year ago, because of her parents' fears about her relationship with a mentally handicapped boy, according to the charity.

Hurd will widen law on retrials

The Home Secretary wants to give the Court of Appeal wider powers to order a retrial in cases other than where there is new evidence.

At present, cases where the judge has misdirected the jury - or where evidence has been wrongly excluded or admitted - cannot be sent for retrial.

It can order a retrial only if it has allowed an appeal against conviction because of evidence received and that it appears the interests of justice require a retrial.

Last month the Court of Appeal made clear that it wanted a new general power. Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with two other judges, said that if it could, it would have ordered a retrial of the case then before it. Instead, "with some reluctance", it just had to quash the conviction.

Mr Hurd, in answer to a written parliamentary question, said the Government intends to act on this and has issued a consultation paper so a clause can be attached to the Criminal Justice Bill now going through the Commons.

In the paper, the Government says it accepts the recommendations of the Law Commission last year that in the light of changes in the law in Scotland and Ireland, "the case for extending the court's present power had been considerably strengthened".

The powers of the equivalent courts in Scotland and Northern Ireland are far wider. In Northern Ireland the court may order a retrial after a successful appeal against conviction or sentence if it believes there has been a miscarriage of justice. In both cases the court must be satisfied the interests of justice require a retrial.

In Scotland the High Court may authorize a retrial only when disposing of an appeal against conviction but there are no limits on this power, although any new prosecution must be brought within two months. It is thought to have been used only three times since it was introduced in 1981.

The question of wider powers for the Court of Appeal in England and Wales to order a retrial has been debated in Parliament several times.

Judge dismisses man's murder confessions

A confession to five murders and 45 other terrorist offences allegedly made by a customs officer to police was dismissed yesterday by a judge because of doubts over how the confession was made.

Mr Eamon Collins, aged 33, left Belfast Crown Court a free man after the judge's ruling that the prosecution had failed to prove he had not been assaulted when interviewed by Royal Ulster Constabulary officers.

Mr Justice Higgins said he remained unsatisfied that the accused had not been assaulted in such a way which amounted to inhuman and degrading treatment.

Mr Collins, a father of two from Newry, Co Down, left the dock when the prosecution offered no further evidence on the charges against him. He had denied 50 charges including murdering a fellow customs officer, a former Ulster Defence Regiment soldier, a former RUC reservist, a serving RUC reservist and a civilian, between 1981 and 1983.

Two other men are still on trial, one charged with counselling and procuring the murder of a customs officer and another with conspiracy to cause an explosion. The hearing continues today.

Women on the altar

Mitchie she had been in her Sunday school class and was delighted to have her officiate.

Yesterday Miss Mitchie was a cream coloured cake with a television microphone. After taking the couple through their marriage vows Miss Mitchie attempted to put the event into perspective.

She said: "History has been made in this church today - by me. It is the first time I have been privileged to conduct a wedding. Soon it will be past history and forgotten as it becomes a regular pattern."

Mr Fletcher, the vicar who, after all, was able to be at the wedding, said that in future all couples would be asked if they had any objection to being married by a woman and Miss Mitchie would share ceremonies equally.

As for the bride, "I was not as nervous as I thought I would be", she said. "And it is nice to be a part of history."

A marriage makes history

At 12.15pm yesterday, the Rev Sylvia Mitch, deacon of the parish church of St Philip and St James at Clifton in York, uttered the words: "I therefore pronounce that they be husband and wife" and wrote herself into the history books.

The first wedding in the Church of England to be conducted by a woman was witnessed by a slightly over-awed bride and groom, 32 invited guests, three television crews, 15 photographers, and more than 20 newspaper and radio reporters.

It was, Miss Mitch admitted, all rather daunting and she hoped that the media's interest in her important occasion had not detracted from the bride's big day.

"I knew there would be some attention but I never ever realized there would be quite so much. The most nerve-racking bit was making sure I got the right rings on the right fingers", she said at the close of the ceremony.

Miss Mitch, aged 50, was ordained as a deacon with 26 other deaconesses on March 7 in a ceremony at York Minster conducted by the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood.

She had been a deaconess at the Clifton church for eight years and a lay worker for a decade before that. It was all part of her ambition to become a priest.

Her opportunity to make history came when the vicar of St Philip and St James, the Rev Robin Fletcher, realized he was likely to be away on the day that Alestair Darvill, aged 26, an assistant manager in a pizza restaurant, was to marry Heather Irvine, aged 24, an hotel worker.

He asked the couple if they wanted to be married by the vicar or if they would mind the ceremony being conducted by the new deacon. By chance Miss Irvine knew Miss

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Twinkl	30/03	07/08	4p	7p	£5,400
Hampton Trust	15/11/83	18/04/84	25p	25p	£13,443
Summerson Group	14/11/84	23/05/85	45p	75p	£13,367

*An allowance of 4.16% has been made for dealing costs.

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Southend Stadium Councils	13/11/85	11/12/85	7p	9p	£53,612
Estimate Agents	11/12/85	19/02/86	10p	21p	£166,775
Wire & Plastics	25/02/86	19/03/86	38p	47p	£278,851
Stat Plus Group	24/06/86	10/09/86	27p	34p	£404,024

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PARLIAMENT

Fishery zone 'works well'

New that the arrangements that had established a fishery conservation zone around the Falkland Islands had been shown to be fully justified, ministers should recall the "whingeing, cringing predictions of international conflict and disaster" made by the Opposition at the time of their introduction, Sir John Baggallan (Epping Forest, C) said during Commons questions.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, agreed that there had been doubt as to whether the arrangements were now working smoothly.

But Mr George Foulkes, an Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said they should not jump to conclusions about the success of the conservation zone when it had been operating for only a few months. He described it as a "nervous-racking and tense arrangement, which could flare up at any time".

Soviet post criticized

The issue of the free movement of mail between the United Kingdom and East Europe was unsatisfactory and should be used by the British delegation as a lever in the Vienna conference that is reviewing the European Security and Co-operation Conference, Mr David Smeeth (Bury South, C) said during Commons questions. He said that the Soviet record over free postal communications was the yardstick by which their commitment to human rights should be judged.

£5m more for tour boards

The Government is proposing to make an additional £5 million available to the English Tourist Board and the British Tourist Authority in 1987-88 so that they can expand their marketing and development activities and continue to give priority to encouraging tourism in areas of unexploited potential and high unemployment, Mr David Trippier, Under-Secretary of State for Employment, said.

Islands poll plan studied

The Foreign Office is studying a report and recommendations of the Turks and Caicos Islands Constitutional Commission relating to elections for a new Administration, and the report and Government response to it will be published towards the end of April, Mr Timothy Eggar, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, told the Commons.

Royal Assent

The Social Fund (Maternity and Funeral Expenses) Act 1987 received Royal Assent.

Budget 'immorality' attacked

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on economic affairs, opening the resumed debate on the Budget, said that one thing about which he and Mr Lawson completely agreed was that it provided an opportunity for the two main parties to demonstrate how wide was the gulf now dividing them.

The Alliance, on the other hand, took refuge in the abandoned trenches of no man's land.

At the next general election, voters must have a clear alternative. Labour would not oppose tax cuts now, then support them once they were in pay packets.

The Budget had been wrong socially and economically. In its neglect of the unemployed, it had been wrong morally (Labour cheers).

He wanted to congratulate Mr Roy Jenkins on his victory on Saturday (when his election as Chancellor of Oxford University was confirmed).

He must have been irresistible to what Matthew Arnold called the home of lost causes (Labour laughter).

Apparently, there had been apprehension at Oxford that if Mr Jenkins had failed to get the top job, he would have gone off and founded a university of his own (renewed Labour laughter).

Mr Lawson had had £6 billion to spend. Yet, in their time, dead sheep had done better than he had.

Last night, there had been some hope among Conservative MPs that the page of the Budget speech that the Chancellor had lost contained the tax cuts for which they longed but were denied.

It had been a Budget to buy votes. But Mr Lawson had carefully targeted those he wanted to buy. Potential Tory converts were written off.

By neglecting those who need most, the Chancellor had widened the desperate and destructive divisions within our society (Labour cheers).

If the first priority really was reducing unemployment, spreading money about in tax cuts was the least effective way of doing it.

The desperate destruction within our society had been intensified and deepened by the Budget.

No Budget had ever relied so heavily on the dictum that nobody with a conscience voted Conservative (Labour cheers).

It had not been a prudent Budget. It was not prudent to spend £20 billion on holding unemployment at more than 3.3 million.

Nor was it prudent to sacrifice the £30 billion the country would earn if those people were back at work. It was not prudent either to allow the quality of housing, hospitals, schools and roads to decay to the point of disintegration.

It was not prudent to squander the country's revenues. Manufacturing output and investment had collapsed. It was not prudent to escalate the deficit on the balance of manufacturing trade.

BUDGET

It was not prudent not to secure the homes of the old and weak against the disastrous rise in burglary and robbery (Labour cheers).

More important, the Budget was generally irrelevant to economic needs.

The income tax cuts could not be sustained. They would worsen the balance of payments deficit — something that the Chancellor found convenient to ignore at the moment.

The Chancellor should have used the money available to build a united country, instead he had used it to finance a failed publicity stunt.

The Government was in the middle of a closing down sale. Everything must go. Buy while stocks last! Amazing reductions!

But customers who fell for such blandishments found that when they complained about the shoddy goods they had bought, the hucksters who had sold them would have cut and run. It would be the same with this Government. That was its clear intention and that was the message of the Budget.

The tax cuts could not be sustained. The Budget was no more than a trailer for the election. Value-added tax would be increased to fill the gap after the election if the Conservatives won. The country would be left with tax cuts which helped the rich most and they would be replaced by tax increases which hit the poor hardest.

An increase in VAT was the Prime Minister's clear intention. On television in 1984 she had been absolutely explicit about aiming for a balance between direct and indirect taxation.

It was the pattern of Tory behaviour to cut direct taxation before elections and to increase indirect taxation after elections. One recent example was before the 1979 election. Mrs Thatcher promised there would be no increase in VAT and then, immediately after the election was over, she increased it from 8 per cent to 15 per cent.

These days, when the Prime Minister was pressed on television, radio and at press conferences, she refused to say categorically that she would not increase VAT after the next election. The Chancellor had been similarly evasive with journalists yesterday evening.

If Mr Lawson wanted to give such a categorical assurance now, MPs would listen with interest. Until then, it would be clear that it was the Government's intention to increase VAT if it was re-elected. That must be true because the use of the Chancellor's extra revenue for tax cuts could not be sustained.

Nobody believed that the £6 billion the Chancellor had to distribute was the result of four years of careful planning. In December he told the House he very much doubted if there would be much scope for reductions in taxation in this Budget.

If he had been telling the truth in December, he had not been expecting that £6 billion fiscal adjustment in March. Therefore, Mr Lawson could not legitimately claim credit for it.

Buoyant revenues were a short-lived and dangerous phenomenon. They were the product of circumstances which either could not continue or could not be allowed to continue without massive damage to the real economy.

If in 1979 the BBC had prophesied that, despite oil revenues, this Government would still have a balance of payments deficit that was growing year by year, the chairman of the Conservative Party would have got on to his bike and cycled round to Broadcasting House to sort out the Bolsheviks propagating such ideas.

It was impossible to imagine a more irresponsible way of reacting to the balance of payments deficit than escalating a consumer and credit boom by cutting 2p off the basic rate of income tax.

The Chancellor should answer the question that he had always refused to answer: what were his plans for getting the balance of payments back into surplus?

There were some parts of the Budget of which Labour approved: tax differentials for leading, better provisions for charities, the increased allowances for blind people and those over 80 years old, and new tax allowances to assist training.

In a passage in the Budget speech that was meant to be a joke, the Chancellor had said: "If the Opposition would support the Bill to bring a formal end to exchange control, He was pleased to say that they would."

They would want a debate in order to draw attention to the money that had flooded out of Britain since the end of control and would want to describe the Labour Party's new way of bringing back that money to British investment in British industry and jobs.

"We have no intention to breathe life into an already dead Act when we have a superb new system."

Labour applauded the Chancellor's conversion on the subject of the measurement of broad money. It had once been the criteria on which all policy was decided. The only problem with the broad-money target was that the Chancellor could never quite hit it.

They equally welcomed the VAT changes for small businesses, but they had proposed those changes last year, when the Government voted them down. They welcomed a sinner come late to repentance.



Mr Roy Hattersley: "Budget shows how wide a gulf divides us".

in December, he had not been expecting that £6 billion fiscal adjustment in March. Therefore, Mr Lawson could not legitimately claim credit for it.

Buoyant revenues were a short-lived and dangerous phenomenon. They were the product of circumstances which either could not continue or could not be allowed to continue without massive damage to the real economy.

If in 1979 the BBC had prophesied that, despite oil revenues, this Government would still have a balance of payments deficit that was growing year by year, the chairman of the Conservative Party would have got on to his bike and cycled round to Broadcasting House to sort out the Bolsheviks propagating such ideas.

It was impossible to imagine a more irresponsible way of reacting to the balance of payments deficit than escalating a consumer and credit boom by cutting 2p off the basic rate of income tax.

The Chancellor should answer the question that he had always refused to answer: what were his plans for getting the balance of payments back into surplus?

There were some parts of the Budget of which Labour approved: tax differentials for leading, better provisions for charities, the increased allowances for blind people and those over 80 years old, and new tax allowances to assist training.

In a passage in the Budget speech that was meant to be a joke, the Chancellor had said: "If the Opposition would support the Bill to bring a formal end to exchange control, He was pleased to say that they would."

They would want a debate in order to draw attention to the money that had flooded out of Britain since the end of control and would want to describe the Labour Party's new way of bringing back that money to British investment in British industry and jobs.

"We have no intention to breathe life into an already dead Act when we have a superb new system."

Labour applauded the Chancellor's conversion on the subject of the measurement of broad money. It had once been the criteria on which all policy was decided. The only problem with the broad-money target was that the Chancellor could never quite hit it.

They equally welcomed the VAT changes for small businesses, but they had proposed those changes last year, when the Government voted them down. They welcomed a sinner come late to repentance.

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Labour nuclear 'switch' praised

GENEVA

Reports of a shift in the Labour Party's policy on nuclear weapons were welcomed during Commons questions by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

He said that he was driven to speculate about the implications of the press reports of a shift by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr Neil Kinnock) suggesting support for the zero-zero position.

"If that is happening, however belatedly, one must welcome their attempts to evade the consequences of their previous disastrous policy."

"The recognition, if it be the case, of the wisdom of keeping cruise missiles in this country, to achieve success in the negotiations, reveals the foolishness of the whole unilateralist approach."

He was replying to Mr William Cash (Stafford, C), who asked if he had noted the desperate Houdini tactics being adopted by Mr Kinnock in a vain attempt to satisfy the negotiators at Geneva and the voters of this country that his party was no longer unilateralist.

That proved that the firm defence policy followed by this Government was going to produce effective verifiable progress towards genuine disarmament.

Earlier Sir Geoffrey said that the seventh round of the Geneva talks had been extended to allow further discussion of the US draft intermediate nuclear forces (INF) treaty tabled on March 4.

Mr John Cartwright (Woolwich, SDP) asked if the Government had been consulted about suggestions that the American Pershing 2 missiles might not be removed, but might be converted into a shorter-range system.

Since anything that could be converted could be reconverted, what were the implications of this for verification?

Sir Geoffrey said that, because of the scope for variation in the capacity of the SS21 and SS22 on the Soviet side, it was important to achieve proper constraints on the shorter-range INF.

Sir Antony Back (Colchester North, C) said that progress was rather disappointingly slow in the arms negotiations.

Sir Geoffrey said he could understand the impatience for headway. In matters of such complexity, it was far more important to be right than speedy.

Mrs Ann Clywd (Cynon Valley, Lab) asked if he could explain why the Government had changed its mind on the zero-zero option by wanting an agreement on short-range nuclear weapons at the same time as reaching agreement on INF instead of in subsequent negotiations as was the Government's position between 1981 and 1986.

Sir Geoffrey said that there had been no change in the Government's policy.

It had always been regarded as important to ensure proper constraints on short-range nuclear weapons as part of the initial agreement and beyond that to ensure commitment to a further round of negotiations for the rest.

Mr George Robertson, an Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, asked for confirmation that the draft treaty on INF at Geneva did not endorse the Prime Minister's line that catching up with the Soviet short-range superiority was a pre-condition for agreement.

Sir Geoffrey: He is doing his best with a profoundly bad brief.

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COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

So much excitement and mystique surround the Budget these days that there is a tendency to judge its political effect by its dramatic quality. By that yardstick Mr Lawson's fourth Budget might be accounted a political failure.

When the most favoured word of praise is "prudent" it is fair to assume that not many pulses have been set racing by the Chancellor's effort. It might even be classed as an anti-climax when set against some of the expectations.

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NEW INTEREST RATES

Base Rate

Reduced by 0.5% to 10.0% per annum with effect from 19 March, 1987.

Deposit Accounts

Interest on Deposit Accounts will reduce by 0.5% to 4.0% net per annum with effect from 19 March, 1987. For those customers who receive interest gross the rate will be reduced to 5.35% per annum.

Save and Borrow Accounts

Interest on credit balances will be reduced to the above Deposit Rate with effect from 16 April, 1987.



Midland Bank

Building of hospitals in Scotland 'is a shambles'

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The building of hospitals in Scotland over the last two decades was described as a complete shambles yesterday, following publication of a damning all-party report.

The Scottish Affairs Committee report tells of 20-year delays, alarming cost overruns, and defective construction, and attacks the "poor management" of the Scottish health service.

Mr David Lambie, Labour MP for Cunninghame South and the committee chairman, said he had no reason to believe the situation was better south of the border.

He also said he was impressed by examples of privately-built hospitals seen by the committee.

The report calls for an overhaul of the process of hospital procurement, and at one point suggests that litigation against consultants or contractors should be dropped where the costs are likely to exceed the benefits.

Legal action over the construction of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Yorkhill, Glasgow, for example, began in 1984, is expected to continue until the mid-1990s, and could cost the taxpayer £8 million.

The hospital was one of three singled out by the committee for its "litany" of constructional defects. These included "failure of mosaic cladding, major malfunctions of the windows, problems with brickwork, drainage faults, contamination of the water supplies, breaching of the fire integrity of the building, structural faults and roof leaks".

Hospitals such as Inverclyde, Royal Crosshouse, and Royal Alexandra, Paisley, all in Strathclyde, appeared on the new building programme of 1962 but were not occupied for 18, 20 and 24 years respectively. Others on that

list have yet to be occupied. The estimated £4.25 million cost of the Inverclyde had more than doubled. The £12.6 million estimate in 1978 for the still unfinished Borders District General Hospital increased last year to £19.1 million.

The committee had great difficulty examining those responsible. The people sought for questioning had either died or resigned, while everyone else denied any blame, Mr Lambie said yesterday.

The report notes that the Commons Public Accounts Committee had for over 24 years heard repeated evidence of defects in British hospital building. "It is a matter for deep regret that the vigilance and efforts of the PAC were not rewarded by a more effective response from those with executive responsibility", says the report.

The committee notes that most of the 1962 building programme was now complete, that future development would be on a smaller scale, and that the Government had issued new "sensible" guidelines on procurement.

However, it makes many detailed recommendations for improvement. Mr Lambie called for "firm, accountable management" of new projects by small teams with full authority.

He also said that health boards "spend far too much time consulting everyone when they plan new hospitals, though most of the people whom they are consulting may never have worked in a modern hospital, may be unable to read a drawing, and are likely to have moved or retired by the time the new hospital opens".

First Report of the Scottish Affairs Committee: Hospital Provision (Stationery Office, £5).



Steve McCombe setting out on the 12-mile round trip across mountain tracks to fetch mail for the villagers of Rhenigdale on the island of Harris. A new road will make it possible to get there by car in 1989 (Photograph: Tom Kidd).

End of the road for postman's boots

On the far side of a remote Scottish mountain, four miles up and over a treacherous sheep track, a handful of crofters are celebrating a milestone in the history of their centuries-old community.

The road is coming to Rhenigdale — one of the most isolated villages in Western Europe.

It was 30 years ago that the idea of a road was first suggested by people on the Hebridean island of Harris. Now, at a cost of £100,000 for each of the 11 inhabitants, the blasting and laying of the

"black stuff" is to begin. Once the dust has settled, however, it is hoped that more people will come to restore the ruins of the abandoned crofts.

Mr Steve McCombe, a recent settler on the island, will be able to hang up the climbing boots he has had to wear in his job as the village's postman.

He said: "You have to be pretty fit to tackle the job — in places the track is like something out of the Andes. At times can be dangerous. In a high wind you can easily lose your footing and

then it's a straight drop into the sea." The former Inverness-shire County Council made an "urgent plea" for the road in 1957. The Western Isles Council inherited the problem with the reorganization of the local authorities.

Mr Kenny MacKay, the town clerk, has regularly trudged over the mountains to plead the case in Stornoway, the island's capital. His determination has paid off, and the council has agreed to spend £1 million to lay a single-track road — with pass-

ing places — into the hamlet on the shores of the Minch. The first vehicles should be able to make the journey within two years.

"It's the greatest news we've ever had. There was a real fear that any further delay could have meant the people packing up and abandoning their family homes to the elements", Mr MacKay said.

"Some of the older people haven't been out of the village for years. Those connected with the village, who live on the mainland, will now think of returning."

Doctor is cleared of negligence over baby

A doctor accused of failing to recognize that a baby aged three weeks needed emergency treatment was cleared of negligence at the High Court yesterday.

The baby, Marion Barker, now aged 11, has been left with a mental age of two-and-a-half after meningitis struck him in December 1975.

Dr Patrick Joseph Nugent, of St Leonards Road, West Ealing, west London, refused to comment after the eight-day hearing. He had denied negligence.

Mr Justice Rongier, dismissing the claim for damages by the mother, Mrs Erhonda Barker, aged 30, of Hanbury Road, Acton, west London, said: "It is impossible not to feel the greatest sympathy for Marion, who is left with life but without living in any real sense."

Mrs Barker claimed that Dr Nugent should have realized that the child was seriously ill when he saw him the evening before he was taken into hospital.

But, the judge said, she agreed that Dr Nugent appeared to give Marion a thorough examination. He said that Dr Nugent, who qualified top out of his class of 600 at University College, Dublin, "is not, and never has been, a doctor who would brush a patient aside, especially one of such a helpless age as Marion without giving him his best attention."

"He was, in my judgement, a careful and caring doctor", the judge said.

BP seeks to expand oilfield in Dorset

BP petroleum developments asked a High Court judge yesterday to approve a big expansion of its onshore oil production operations at the Wyck Farm oilfield on the Isle of Purbeck, Dorset.

Production is running at about 5,500 barrels a day from the Bridport subterranean oil reservoir. BP wants to expand production to the Sherwood reservoir to give an expected peak of 60,000 barrels a day.

To do so, it requires additional ancillary rights, mainly to bore more wells and construct works on the surface, at the 4,700-acre Rempstone estate, under which a large part of the oilfield lies.

Mr Michael Essayan, QC, for BP, told Mr Justice Gibson in London that the company had been unable to obtain the rights by negotiation with the estate trustees.

As a result, it was asking the court to make an order granting the rights under The Mines (Working Facilities and Support) Act 1966.

BP is opposed by the trustees, and by Mr Walter Pitman, a tenant. Mr Essayan said Mr Pitman was concerned about compensation.

The hearing, which is expected to last at least three weeks, continues today.

Rare lambs

Nine Leicester longwails, sheep on the critical list of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, have given birth to their first lambs at Shugborough Park Farm, the Staffordshire agricultural museum.

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6. Try and work out what your fellow travellers do for a living by studying their clothes.
7. Have a drink.
8. Persuade a total stranger to tell you their life story.
9. Have another drink.
10. Persuade a total stranger to listen to your life story.
11. Write a letter to an old friend you've lost touch with.
12. Sleep.
13. Gaze out of the window and note how England is changing.
14. Have a meal.
15. Walk up and down a bit.
16. Re-plan your life.
17. Write down your three trickiest business problems. Then work out how to solve them.
18. Read a magazine you'd never normally read.
19. Play chess.
20. Flirt outrageously with a fellow passenger of the opposite sex.
21. Invent something that will make you a fortune.
22. Do whatever you please.

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Abusive doctor is struck off

A doctor who used abusive language to hospital colleagues and failed to treat patients properly, was ordered to be struck off the medical register by the General Medical Council yesterday.

Dr Jennifer Colman-Archer was said to be guilty of serious professional misconduct after three charges against her were found proved. A fourth charge that she failed to attend a patient as a matter of urgency was not proved.

Dr Colman-Archer, aged 43, of East Dereham, Norfolk, who has 28 days to appeal, was accused of using foul language against colleagues and of having a bullying bedside manner. She told the committee yesterday that during her time at the James Paget Hospital, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, she had been popular with pa-



Dr Colman-Archer: "I was not rude".

tients and was never warned about her conduct.

She denied allegations that she called a senior doctor a "useless black queer" and a "poofner", and accused him of incompetence. She told the disciplinary hearing: "He is white".

"She said that all her patients 'befriended her', and on several occasions sent her flowers and chocolates."

Dr Colman-Archer said: "I was never rude to patients and have never had them complain about me. I don't swear on wards and I have never sworn at a nurse, not even in the heat of the moment, in front of patients."

The GMC committee had been told that Dr Colman-Archer had failed to examine a patient with a serious chest complaint. It was also claimed that she refused to attend a patient suffering a heart attack, and when she did, it was in "extremely bad grace".

The doctor said staff who made the allegations were lying. She said: "I had the makings of a good doctor and I like people very much."

She also denied using foul language to a ward sister.

She said: "There was an argument. The sister told me I was only a junior house officer and if I wanted to be treated like a doctor I had to act like one. I was very angry and left the office but never swore at her."

The charges arose after complaints from staff at James Paget and the King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

Race tipster loses claim over sex bias

A racing tipster who lost her job with *The Star* newspaper was not a victim of sexual discrimination, an industrial tribunal in Manchester has ruled.

Mrs Mary Pye, of Tennyson Road, Stoke, Coventry, told the tribunal that she had many successes at *The Star*, including a run of 11 winners.

Mrs Pye, who worked for the paper for seven years, said her successes were often played down, compared with the coverage given to male tipsters.

When Mrs Pye lost her job, she took her former employers to a tribunal.

Mr Roy Trueman, a company manager, said no one had the right to publicity in the paper and Mrs Pye was given what space was available. He said Mrs Pye was regarded as a freelance who had lost her job as part of large-scale cost cuts.

Three in court over flotation of TSB shares

Three men appeared in court yesterday accused of fiddling applications in the Trustee Savings Bank shares flotation last year.

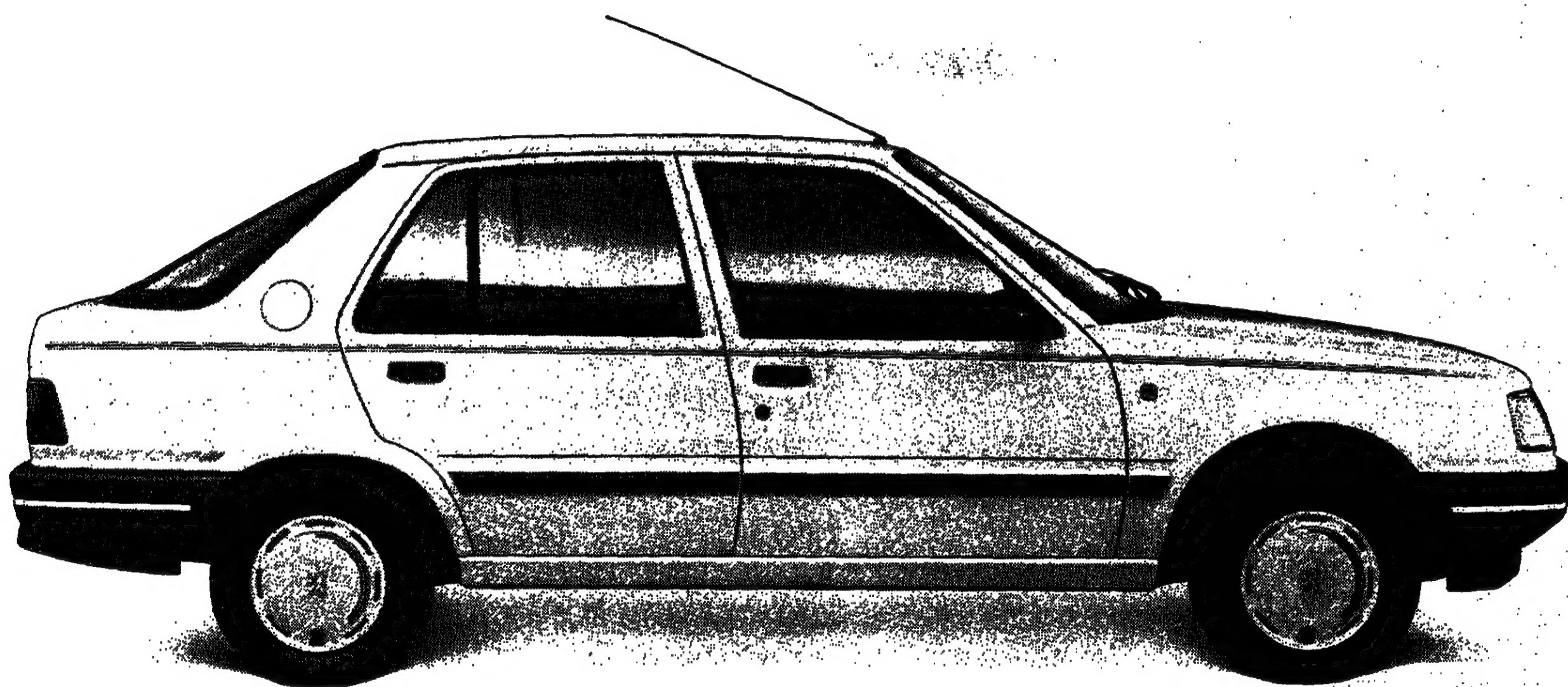
They are the first applicants to be charged in a series of police investigations into the £1.500 million stock market flotation.

Rupert Nicholas Stephenson, aged 22, a consultant, of Abercrombie Street, Battersea, south-west London, Keith Samuel Springer, aged 25, an insurance broker, of Trouville Road, Clapham, south-west London, and James Alexander Thompson-Schwab, aged 24, of Green Acres, Longtown, near Carlisle, Cumbria, were remanded on bail until April 30 by Bow Street magistrates.

They are accused of conspiring together and with others between August 4 and September 25 to obtain shares in TSB from Lazard Brothers by deception.

First human
tests of Aic
vaccine sho
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DEPOSIT (MIN 30%)	1933.48	1933.48	1933.48
REPAYMENT PERIOD	12 MTHS	24 MTHS	36 MTHS
FINANCE CHARGES	NIL	428.64	812.16
MONTHLY PAYMENTS	375.96	205.84	147.88
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First human tests of Aids vaccine show early success

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

A French medical researcher has injected himself with an experimental vaccine containing components of the Aids virus and suffered no side effects, in the first human tests to be conducted.

The researcher, Dr Daniel Zagury, has remained healthy with no apparent damage to his immune system after nine weeks, he and colleagues at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, report in today's issue of *Nature*, the scientific journal.

The potential vaccine is still at an early stage of development and the researchers are cautious about its potential. Many problems may have to be overcome before large scale clinical trials of the vaccine could be considered, they said.

However, it has shown encouraging results, which have been supported by further tests involving African volunteers. Preliminary confirmation of its ability to trigger an immune response against the Aids virus has come from immunization of a small group of healthy volunteers in

Zaire, according to the report. Dr Zagury's blood developed antibodies against a protein of the virus after the injection, and cells in his immune system were activated to recognize virus-infected cells.

At least half of the drug addicts who are at risk of spreading Aids can be persuaded to change their behaviour, researchers said yesterday.

The belief that addicts who inject themselves are inherently self-destructive misjudges the extent to which most are concerned about Aids and are prepared to do something about it, researchers at the Drug Indicators Project in London said.

This is good news for health authorities concerned that drug users will form the bridge across which Aids can spread to the general heterosexual population, Mr Richard Harcourt, a fellow worker said in the latest issue of *Drugslink*, the journal of the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence.

Lead-free petrol at 1/2p below four-star

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

Unleaded petrol was selling for 1/2p less than normal four-star petrol yesterday, despite the belief that the 5p cut in duty on unleaded fuel in the Budget would bring price parity at the pumps.

Unleaded petrol at BP stations is now 174.5p a gallon, 5p cheaper than the pre-Budget price, while Texaco is selling it for 175p a gallon, 1/2p less than the average four-star price.

The reduced duty will allow the petrol companies to recover the higher production cost of unleaded fuel.

A survey carried out just before the Budget showed that two thirds of the public claimed they would be "very likely" to buy unleaded petrol at the same price as four-star.

A warning about its use came yesterday from the Royal Automobile Club, which said: "Those car owners whose vehicles cannot use unleaded fuel must be warned that misguided enthusiasm to support clean air objectives can have serious and extremely damaging effects on their cars."

The 211 petrol stations currently selling unleaded fuel have details of which cars can safely use the new petrol.



Lance-Sergeant Bill Porter, of the Irish Guards, shows Lorraine Bungard, a junior member of the St John Ambulance Brigade, how he plans to make a fast getaway in this year's London Marathon. Lorraine, from Worthing, West Sussex, is nine years old and a member of the Badgers, a section of the brigade for children aged six to 10. She does not expect to be among the 100 St John first-aiders who will be on duty at the marathon on May 10 when 100 sponsored volunteers, mainly from the Army, will be running to raise money for the brigade, which has launched a £10 million appeal to mark its centenary (Photograph: Peter Trivier)

Dispute on quotas threatens flights to the Far East

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The Government was accused yesterday of having a double standard in its aviation policy by an airline which claims that Britain is pressing for free competition within Europe yet stifling it in the Far East.

Philippine Airlines followed up its attack by saying that unless there is a change of heart by the end of this month, all air services between London and Manila will be suspended.

The dispute centres on an agreement under which the airline flies three times a week between the Philippine capital and Gatwick, and pays British Airways - which operates only two flights a week - "compensation" for losses it claims it incurs because of the extra flight.

The two operators have negotiated for three years to keep the services going and British Airways says it is now prepared to accept payment of more than £1 million a year, partly in cash and partly in passengers fed on to their routes by the Philippine state carrier.

But the Department of Transport has said that any new agreement entered into after the end of March must be subject to a 30 day exemption clause, giving the British the right to terminate it for any reason.

"The UK is supposed to be in the forefront of liberalization, urging Europe to agree to let any airline fly where it likes, when it likes", Mr Josemaria Estrada, vice-president of Philippine Airlines, said in London yesterday. "But they then try to restrict us in this unfair and unreasonable way."

All air services will cease from the end of March unless a new agreement is reached within days. Cathay Pacific flights between Hong Kong and Manila are also threatened because of the complex nature of the inter-governmental air deal.

"Our talks with British Airways have been tough, but they have been fair", Mr Estrada said. "We have been paying them the equivalent of £750,000 a year for the last two years because they say we are taking some of their traffic away, and now we are prepared to increase that by about 60 per cent."

The dispute is further complicated by Philippine Airlines' impending re-equipment of its fleet of short range aircraft.

British-built planes are hot favourites to win the £300 million contract, but the Philippine government is unlikely to look kindly on such a deal if the countries are in dispute over air services.

Job threat in scenic line fight

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

One of the men who led the struggle to save the historic Settle-Carlisle railway line may pay with his job.

Mr James Towler, has been told that his position as chairman of the Transport Users' Consultative Committee for north-east England will not be extended when it expires at the end of the month.

One source said: "James Towler prepared a splendid report arguing the case for keeping open the line which was adopted by the North-east and the North-west TUCCs and sent to John Moore, the Secretary of State for Transport."

This caused British Rail a great deal of embarrassment and has almost certainly stood in the way of his reappointment.

A decision on the line has been postponed pending further study.

As chairman of the consultative committee for the North-east Mr Towler is also a member of the Central Transport Consultative Committee. Yesterday Major General Lennox Napier, chairman of the CTC, said that he was disappointed because he had recommended that Mr Towler's term of office should be extended. The CTC had now recommended that he should be appointed an independent member of their committee.

The north-east TUCC has a routine meeting today in York, which is to be attended by Mr David Mitchell, Minister of State at the Department of Transport.

The committee is expected to express its dismay at the decision concerning Mr Towler, which was taken by Lord Lucas of Chilworth, who is minister at the Department of Trade and Industry with responsibility for nationalized industry watchdog committees.

The Department of Trade and Industry said it was its policy to bring in new blood when possible. Mr Towler had been a very good chairman, but he had first joined a consultative committee in 1973 and had had three terms as chairman.

Grieving man 'went to agency'

The fiancé of a teacher who plunged to her death over a 40ft waterfall, rejoined the dating agency through which they met, two days after her funeral, a fatal accident inquiry was told yesterday.

Miss Cheryl Richards, director of the Perfect Partners Dating Agency, Cardiff, told the inquiry at Inverness that she had advised Mr John Duggan not to rejoin so soon, as he would still be grieving. She said that Mr Duggan had continued to ask for details of prospective partners after he had met and moved in with Mrs Lyn Davies, aged 38, a divorcee, of Trinity View, Caerleon, Gwent.

Mrs Davies died last August when the couple were sailing a rubber dinghy on the river Pateck at Lagen, Llanwenarth.

Mr Russell Franklin, of the Abbey Life insurance company, said Mr Duggan described the accident to him a month later. He had said that after plunging over the waterfall he had resigned himself to drowning, but he was able to grab a ledge.

Mr Richard Davies, an executor of Mrs Davies's will, said he had written to the procurator fiscal in Inverness after questions were raised surrounding her death. The hearing continues.

Three to face New Forest murders trial

Three men were committed for trial at Lymington Magistrates' Court yesterday charged with the murder of five people at Fortingbridge, Hampshire, last year.

Mr Joseph Cleaver and his invalid wife Hilda, both aged 82, their son Thomas, aged 47, his wife Wendy, aged 46, and Mrs Cleaver's nurse, Mrs Margaret Murphy, aged 70, were found dead after a fire at their home.

A former handyman, George Stephenson, aged 35, of Elgar Road, Coventry, and George Daly, aged 25, and John Daly, aged 21, both brothers of Deedmore Road, Coventry, were committed to Winchester Crown Court.

Q Who is the best dressed man in Paris?

A The man who discovered that Austin Reed is just the ticket.



INQUIRY INTO THE CARE AND AFTER-CARE OF MISS SHARON CAMPBELL

NOTICE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

The Secretary of State for Social Services has established an inquiry under Section 84 of the National Health Service Act, 1977 and Section 250 of the Local Government Act, 1972 into the arrangements for the care and after-care of Miss Sharon Campbell. He has appointed Mr J A C Spokes QC to be Chairman of the Committee of Inquiry. The other members are Dr C M B Pare MD FRCP FRC Psych and Mr G A Royle B Com LLB DMA AAPSW ACIS.

The terms of reference are:

- "To inquire into the management of arrangements for the care and after-care of Miss Sharon Campbell;
- "to consider the adequacy of these arrangements; and
- "to report to the Secretary of State and to make recommendations, on the basis of their findings, on any measures or practices which might provide improvements in identifying the needs of mentally disordered people and in the quality of care for those living in the community and the support for staff working with them."

The Chairman proposes to hold a public meeting at the Hoare Memorial Hall, Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster SW1 on 27 March 1987 at 10.30 am when he will outline the procedures he intends to adopt at the inquiry and hear applications for legal representation.

Any person or body wishing to be represented or to give evidence orally or in writing to the inquiry is invited to write to the Secretary, Mr J N Deane at Room C 607, Department of Health and Social Security, Alexander Fleming House, Elephant and Castle, London SE1 6BY.

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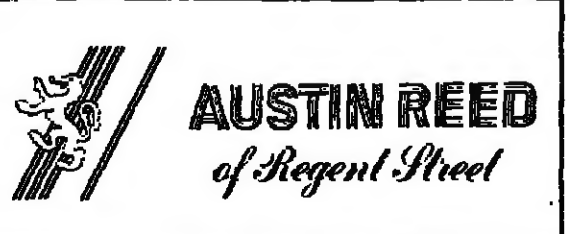
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Zambia resumes weekly foreign exchange sales but IMF pact is elusive

From Paul Valley, Lusaka

An International Monetary Fund team has left Zambia without having reached an agreement on a package to rescue the country from its greatest financial and political crisis since independence.

The only fruit of three weeks of difficult negotiations with the Government is that the Central Bank announced yesterday that it is to resume from Monday the weekly auctions in which companies must bid for limited amounts of foreign exchange with which to import raw materials.

The auctions, suspended in January after the kwacha plunged to a record low, was part of the last deal with the Fund, but their renewal has not provided sufficient grounds for new IMF cash.

Ironically, the resumption of auctions follows news that Zambia has stopped shipping copper, its main export, to South Africa.

In pursuit of its policy of reducing dependence on its white neighbour, all shipments since August have gone through Tanzania and Mozambique.

During the last financial quarter, almost 100,000 tons went through Dar es Salaam and 17,000 tons via Zimbabwe and along the Zimbebe corridor.

The Minister of Mines, Mr Dickson Chitambala, who said that the move was not the start of sanctions but part of a continuing realignment, also announced that Zambia's parastatal mining company has closed its office in South Africa.

The re-establishment of the auctions, however, will pull in the opposite direction. In the short term the Government prefers auctions to the IMF option of a devaluation. This is presumably on the grounds that the auctions appear to shift responsibility for con-

tinuing devaluations on to the business community. Unfortunately in the long term the system of auctions will actually strengthen the country's dependence on South Africa. Because the bidding is done weekly, businesses need to shorten the time during which they have money tied up in imports in order to release cash needed to bid again the next week.

The result is that Zambian companies are now buying increasingly from South Africa because goods arrive from there by land within four or five days.

To import from outside Africa through Tanzania or Mozambique is more costly.

A spokesman for the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) said yesterday that, despite the halt in the transit of Zambian copper exports, the flow of South African imports, which account for 64 per cent of all Zambia's foreign goods, were still moving unchanged from South Africa. (Jan. Kasah writes from Harare).

Mozambique can take eight to nine weeks.

Many Zambian businessmen were yesterday simply relieved that the auctions had restarted, ending the foreign exchange famine which was threatening widespread closures and redundancies in a nation where most industries are at least 30 per cent dependent on imported goods.

"There is the feeling that it is a small step in the right direction. It is more than was expected," one Western diplomat said.

Other observers had reservations about the auction scheme. "They have promised to pay off the backlog from the last three auctions immediately. They have promised that in future all successful bidders will receive the currency within three days. It

Kohl offers hand of friendship to the East

From John England, Bonn

Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, yesterday spoke of his plans for East-West relations and nuclear disarmament, as well as domestic issues, when he outlined his policies for the next four years to Parliament.

On relations with the Soviet Union, he said that Mr Mikhail Gorbachev had awakened "great expectations. Our relations with the Soviet Union are of central importance for us."

If the Soviet leader's course held chances of more understanding, more co-operation and, above all, concrete results in disarmament and arms control, West Germany would take them up, he said.

But Bonn was also bound firmly to the Atlantic Alliance, which was the guarantee of West Germany's freedom and security, he said, towards dialogue and co-operation with the Warsaw Pact states.

Nuclear disarmament, however, would increase the problem posed by the imbalance in conventional forces in Europe. The Warsaw Pact superiority in this area, especially its capability of launching a surprise attack, must be reduced.

On the "German question," Herr Kohl told Parliament: "We hold firmly to the unity of our nation. Our goal remains freedom and unity for all Germans."

But Germans' fate was bound up with the entire East-West relationship. West Germany would make all efforts to develop relations between the two German states in a "good, open climate," but would never accept the Berlin Wall or orders to East German guards to shoot at people trying to escape from East Germany.

On domestic issues, he said that there were plans to protect the environment, fight unemployment, and tackle other social questions.



Polish police in Wroclaw pulling a peace activist down from a column where he had been protesting at the expulsion of a medical student for refusing to do military service.

The Church in Hungary

Vatican concerned at "collaboration"

From Richard Bassett, Budapest

A Papal envoy is in Budapest to confer with Hungary's new Primate, Bishop László Paskai, and to express the Vatican's concern at the attitude of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Hungary.

In contrast to neighbouring Czechoslovakia, relations in Hungary between the Communist state and the Catholic Church are remarkably harmonious, but to a degree which many Catholics both inside and outside Hungary believe may be bordering on collaboration.

Under Bishop Paskai's predecessor, the late Cardinal László Lekai, the Catholic hierarchy toed the Government's line on a number of religious and political issues.

To the frequent disquiet of the Vatican, Cardinal Lekai supported the Government repeatedly against Catholic conscientious objectors who were imprisoned for refusing to be conscripted into the Hungarian armed forces.

Unlike East Germany and Poland, conscientious objectors in Hungary have no community service which they may perform as an alternative to military service.

Cardinal Lekai's attitude to this issue earned him the sobriquet of "Comrade Lekai" among many young Hungarians.

His successor, the Bishop of Kolosvár, is widely believed to have been virtually imposed on the Vatican by the Hungarian Government. Few expect him to persuade Catholics to adopt a more robust anti-communist role, or to defend the activities of conscientious objectors.

Nor is he expected to support the activities of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, whose "base communities" have practised a more decisive Catholic attitude towards the state.

Monday's meeting between the bishop and the Vatican's envoy took place in considerable secrecy, but those close

to the upper echelons of the Catholic Church here doubt whether the new Primate will prove less accommodating towards the Government than did his predecessor.

It must be conceded that the policy described in official circles as one of "small steps" has enabled the Catholic Church in Hungary to retain its seminaries and, at Pannónia, the spectacular Benedictine monastery, a fee-paying Catholic boarding school — a remarkable survival in a Communist country.

None the less, the price paid is considered too high by

The position of Mr Vladimir Shcherbitch, the one remaining Brezhnev appointee on the Politburo, was made even more isolated yesterday by the announcement that one of the Ukrainian chief's most senior officials had been removed from his post.

According to Pravda, Mr Viktor Boyko, aged 55, was dismissed by the party for "permitting serious shortcomings in his work."

many Catholics. "By compromising, the hierarchy gives in to a state which is ultimately dedicated to reducing the authority of the Catholic Church," a young monk confided while waiting to see Bishop Paskai.

"We are losing Catholics every year when Hungary, in the grip of a new wave of materialism, needs spiritual guidance of a more decisive character," he said.

The decline in moral values which has become prevalent with the dramatic increase in material prosperity in Hungary, is deeply disturbing to younger members of the Catholic Church.

If, as is widely predicted, Bishop Paskai continues the line of his predecessor, the Catholic Church's power to arrest this decline and to stand up for its spiritual values will continue to remain muted.

Japan leaders clash in public over tax reform

From David Watts, Tokyo

Leaders of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party have become deeply embroiled in an embarrassing public dispute about the future of the LDP's controversial attempt at tax reform.

Mr Shin Kanemaru, the Deputy Prime Minister, appeared to be stating the obvious this week when he said it was time to think of modifying the LDP's proposal before local elections next month.

The proposal, which includes a value added tax of five per cent, has met a flood of protest and caused a boycott of the Diet (Parliament) by the Opposition.

Mr Kanemaru was taken to task by Mr Masaharu Gotoda, the Chief Cabinet Secretary, who said after a Cabinet meeting that Mr Kanemaru had been expressing a personal opinion — shorthand for saying that neither the opinion nor its public expression suits the party.

Sovereignty of Macao

Lisbon hand-over 'in 1999'

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

Portugal will hand over the administration of Macao to China on December 20, 1999, according to unofficial reports in Lisbon on the outcome of the fourth and final meeting between the two countries in Peking. The terms of the final agreement will be made public this week.

Portugal's council of state will meet in special session on Friday to examine the treaty which is scheduled to be signed in Peking, possibly in June. The Portuguese Prime Minister, Professor Anibal Cavaco Silva, will travel to China for the ceremony.

The exact date of the transfer had been one of the main stumbling blocks holding up negotiations.

Portugal wanted to keep control until well after the year 2000 to assure a smooth transfer which would safeguard the rights of the Portuguese-born there (the Mac-

anenses) and of the naturalized Chinese. They also wanted time to train a new staff of civil servants to take the place of the Portuguese and to safeguard the 500-year Portuguese cultural and language heritage.

But the Chinese were adamant in demanding an early date which would be in line with the transfer of Hong Kong by Britain in 1997.

There are still problems to overcome in the negotiations. Portugal is very concerned over the future of the estimated 80,000 Chinese in Macao who have the right to Portuguese citizenship; it considers them Portuguese and has asked that they be allowed to hold dual passports. But China considers them Chinese and has rejected the idea of dual passports.

Portugal is especially concerned over what will happen to them and to the Macanenses in the light of the terrible consequences of the 1975 decolonization of Portugal's African territory, particularly of Angola and Mozambique, where civil war has raged for 12 years and where hunger and suffering are widespread.

Portugal is also concerned that the 80,000 might opt for Portuguese citizenship and emigrate. It has already been forced to integrate the million people who returned from Africa after independence.

Reports from Macao meanwhile suggest that there is suspicion and apprehension about the future, but paradoxically there is a big scramble to make investments there.

On July 30 tenders will be called to operate television and radio in Macao. Several groups are said to be interested, including Mr Stanley Ho, the multi-millionaire Chinese entrepreneur, and Australian, American and Portuguese interests.

VIPs find morale low in occupied Hebron

From Ian Murray, Hebron, occupied West Bank

It was Important Visitors Day at the old Beit Hadassah hospital by the edge of the Cashah here yesterday. The blue and white flags of Israel were up outside, as usual, and the armed guards were at their usual posts by the gateway, on the rooftops opposite or patrolling the streets nearby.

For Lieutenant General Moshe Levy it was the last official tour of the Jewish settlement in Arab Hebron before he hands over as Chief of Staff next month. He found the small detachment of soldiers there, mostly men doing

about the quality of food and sleeping accommodation inside their barbed-wire enclosure in the town, seemed unconvincing.

Not long after the General left, Mr Moshe Arens arrived for his first inspection since taking over as Minister responsible for Arab affairs of Beit Hadassah.

Built as a charity hospital where Jews treated Arabs until the Jewish community was massacred during the 1929 Arab riots, it has been converted into 11 flats for one of the most militant Jewish settler communities in the West Bank, and stands defiant in the heart of the Arab town.

Last week the Israeli High Court upheld a military ruling that Arab shops built behind it have to be confined by a high wire fence to lessen the danger of bombs being placed there to blow up the building.

Pictures in its basement museum show how the settlement was established after the 1967 Six Day War. "For the kingdom of Israel shall be fulfilled in Hebron" reads the text at the start of the display.

Mr Arens rushed off on foot to see the ruined Jewish quarter, passing briefly by a monument to Jewish students killed in Hebron in 1980: the Arab guide is reputed to be one of those sentenced for the killings and freed in a prisoner exchange two years ago. "The nation shall praise God as he avenges the blood of his faithful," the inscription says.

In the Jewish quarter, where flats are being built for settlers, Mr Arens, in his keffiyeh headscarf, chatted with an Arab foreman.

Then, with the disgruntled soldiers on the rooftops keeping a close watch on his procession, he returned to Beit Hadassah to encourage the settlers' leaders.

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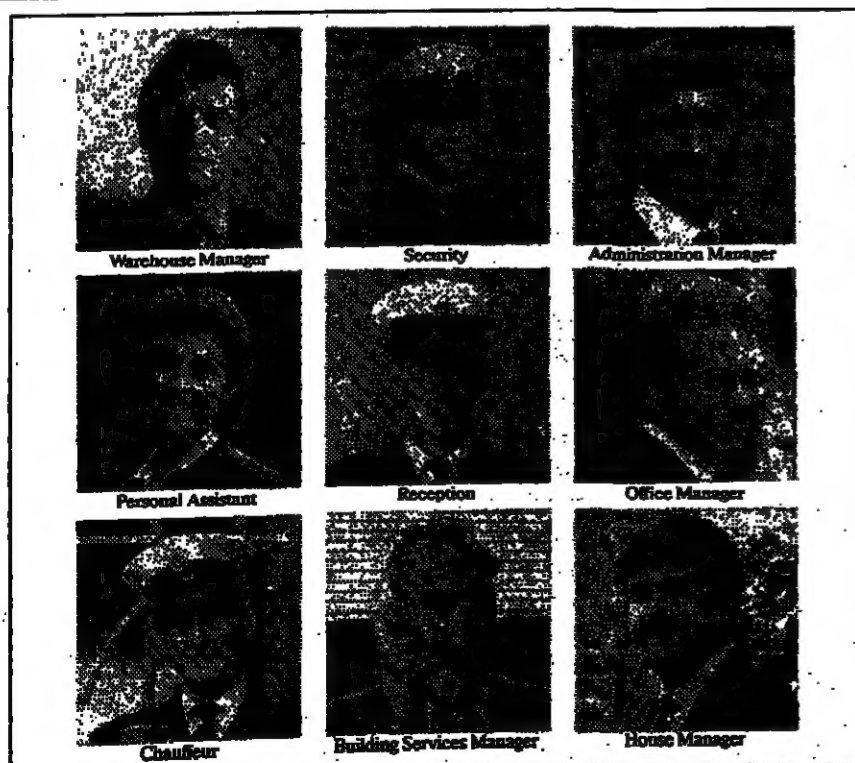


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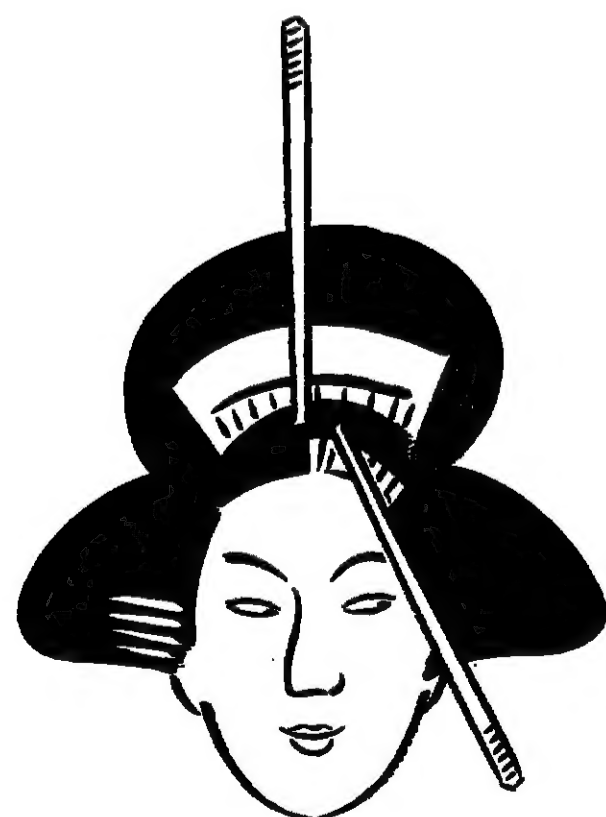
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SPENS

Time-bomb kills four at military academy before visit by Aquino

From Keith Dalton, Manila

A time-bomb exploded yesterday at the Philippines Military Academy, killing four people and wounding more than 40 others. It went off in a grandstand that President Aquino was to use on Sunday to review the graduation parade of 149 cadets.

The explosion occurred hours after military headquarters announced the killing of 19 soldiers by a landmine detonated by Communist rebels in Quezon province, east of Manila.

The two incidents constitute a serious setback for the Aquino Government's efforts to bring the guerrilla war to a peaceful end, following the expiry of a 60-day ceasefire last month. Since then more than 300 people have died in renewed fighting all over the country.

The mid-morning blast occurred as about 100 officers and civilians sat in the parade ground grandstand watching rehearsals for the cadets' passing-out parade at the academy in Baguio, 130 miles north of Manila.

The grandstand roof collapsed on the spectators immediately after the explosion. The Armed Forces Radio reported that the remains of a crude time-bomb, including fragments of a clock, were discovered at the scene.

The dead, retrieved from the rubble, included two sergeants and the widow of a soldier who was to have received her husband's posthumous award for bravery fighting the rebels. A lieutenant-colonel died later in hospital.

The injured included 14 officers, five troops, 22 civilians and two army recruits, the state-run Philippines News Agency reported.

At the time of the explosion the graduating cadets were marching in formation a short distance from the grandstand and none was reported to have been injured.

The authorities broadcast appeals for blood, and the most seriously injured were flown by US helicopters to the American Hospital at the nearby Clark air base.

The bomb was planted on

the grandstand roof and debris shattered the stage where Mrs Aquino was due to review the cadets alongside the armed forces chief, General Fidel Ramos, the Defence Secretary, Mr Rafael Iloilo, said.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, the most serious security breach at the academy since a renegade soldier, Lieutenant Victor Corpus, misled the armory in 1970 and stole guns and ammunition for use by Communist rebels.

The military, however, are sure it was the work of New People's Army guerrillas, who are also held responsible for the killing of at least seven policemen in a string of street assassinations in Manila this month.

At least 200 rebels are blamed for yesterday's attack on an armoured personnel carrier and a troop-laden lorry in Catanduan, 110 miles east of Manila, in which the 19 soldiers were killed and seven were wounded. No casualties were reported among the rebels, who escaped with the soldiers' 27 rifles.



Soviet crew members visiting the Washington Monument after having been rescued by Coast Guard helicopter from their sinking cargo ship off the US east coast. President Reagan met the crew at the White House before they returned to Russia.

Tamil mediation efforts at standstill

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

Talks on ending the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka have been suspended, with the Government hoping to reduce the military confidence of Tamil separatists sufficiently to bring them to the negotiating table.

India, whose mediatory role has in the past three years brought concessions from the Sri Lankans, publicly condemns the military operations in the northern peninsula, but is said privately to be content to watch the rebels — in particular the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) — being humiliated. So far the LTTE has shown little sign of being prepared to talk.

But Sri Lankan officials also believe that the Indians are plotting to prevent the rebels from being overwhelmed. There are reports in Sri Lanka Government circles that ministers of the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu are arranging to give back to the rebels arms taken from them late last year by the state authorities.

Even more alarming for the Sri Lankans is the suspicion that "mercenaries" said to be

working with the rebels in the north are in fact Indians giving on-the-spot assistance or training.

Reports this week from the Sri Lankan news agency, Lankapeetha, said that two Sikhs were among those killed when a petrol tanker, which was being prepared for a suicide bombing attack, exploded prematurely. The agency also said that two "Filipino-looking" men had been seen in Jaffna, the northern capital, with the LTTE leadership. A Defence Ministry official hinted that the two may have been Gurkhas.

Pressure is thus being brought on both sides in the protracted war to come to terms. Delhi believed that it had obtained a useful agreement from President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka when two Indian ministers visited Colombo before Christmas.

The agreement called for significant powers to be devolved to provincial authorities in the north and east, and Mr Jayewardene was persuaded that he could permit a referendum on the question of linking the two councils eventually. A second, more controversial element involved the withdrawal from the East-

ern Province of the Amparar electorate, composed largely of Sinhalese voters.

Cabinet hostility caused the President to hedge his commitment to the new deal, to the fury of the Indians, who promptly ceased their mediation efforts.

"Every member is privately opposed, and only one member is publicly in favour of the new proposals," one Cabinet member said. "But if we were convinced that this would actually bring peace we would all accept it."

Last month the Indians sent a demarche to the Sri Lankans setting out the conditions under which they would resume their mediatory role. The terms included the cessation of the "current military operations against Tamil civilians" and of the "measures like economic and communications blockades". The Indians also said that the December proposals must be affirmed as only a starting point for negotiations.

In his reply a few days later, Mr Jayewardene called first for an agreement by the LTTE to cease violent operations, not to interfere with the local administration and to an-

nounce that they were doing so. The Sri Lankan armed forces would "not carry out any further military operations". The embargo on the movement of certain commodities would also be lifted.

The President added that when talks began his Government would release people detained under the anti-terrorist legislation. He also promised a general amnesty when the separatists lay down their arms for good.

Mr Jayewardene's reply produced a mixed response in India. Some commentators said it was nothing new, but officials in the Indian External Affairs Ministry have welcomed it as providing a useful framework for a peace programme.

A further hopeful sign that matters may be moving more quickly is that last weekend Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, sent his personal representative to Colombo to hold talks with Mr Jayewardene. Observers say that Mr Gandhi's personal interest can only mean that India's withdrawal from the peace-making process is at an end.

Canadian threat to French fishermen

Ottawa — Canada has closed its ports to French fishing vessels as a signal to France to stop over-fishing in disputed waters south of Newfoundland (John Best writes).

The Government has threatened to arrest any French vessels caught fishing on the Burgeo Bank, 50 miles west of the French islands of St-Pierre and Miquelon.

Canadian officials allege that France has been exceeding its cod quota in the disputed zone, which extends south-eastwards from the Newfoundland coast.

Sunken riches

Copenhagen (Reuters) — Danish divers have found treasure worth about £19 million in the wreck of HMS Medina, which was sunk by a German torpedo in 1917 in the English Channel while returning from India loaded with Indian treasures.

Back blast

Athens — A Greek security guard was killed and another injured when their car, patrolling the perimeter track of Athens airport, was flung off the tarmac by the exhaust of a stationary Olympic Airways A300 Airbus testing its engines.

Tank crash

Amberg, West Germany (Reuters) — Twenty-nine people were injured, six of them seriously, when a US Army tank and a West German bus collided in Bavaria.

Pope's visit

Rome (Reuters) — The Pope will make an official visit to West Germany at the end of April.

Addis talks

Nairobi — Somalia will send a delegation to Addis Ababa for the next round of talks with Ethiopia, aimed at settling their long-standing dispute over the Ogaden border area.

Gold frame

Dhaka (Reuters) — Mr Mohammad Shafi, a Bangladeshi, has been arrested and accused of trying to smuggle £47,000 worth of gold into Bangladesh hidden in the frame of a child's bicycle.

Murderer-author faces death again

From David Watts, Tokyo

The Tokyo High Court has reinstated the death sentence against a multiple murderer who won one of Japan's top literary prizes and repeated of his four killings while in goal.

The case of Norio Nagayama was at the centre of a campaign to abolish the death penalty in Japan during the mid-1970s, and this ruling is likely to revive the debate.

Nagayama was a late-night coffee shop waiter aged 19 when he murdered four people with a handgun stolen from the US military between October and November 1968.

He killed a guard at the Tokyo Prince Hotel in October 1968 and another guard three days later in the grounds of the Yasaka shrine in Japan's ancient capital, Kyoto. A few weeks later he shot dead two taxi drivers in central and northern Japan, stealing about yen 7,000 — then the equivalent of about £7 — from each of them.

He was arrested the following year, and when his case came to trial in July 1979 he

was sentenced to death. But in 1981 the Tokyo High Court reduced the sentence to life imprisonment.

His prosecutors appealed, and the Supreme Court directed the lower court to impose the heavier sentence, saying that the death penalty should be carried out when motives, method and the number of victims merited the sentence.

Yesterday the High Court acted on that instruction, only for Nagayama's lawyer to appeal immediately.

Nagayama's autobiographical novel, *Wooden Bridge*, won the New Japan Literary Prize four years ago and became an instant best seller.

The book tells the story of a five-year-old boy in a family of four children abandoned by their mother. It is set in Abe-shiri, Hokkaido, one of the poorest areas of northern Japan, which suffers from both a harsh climate and unemployment.

A second novel, *Tears of Ignorance*, has also sold well,

and Nagayama has another unpublished manuscript with a similar theme.

His time in prison has not been wasted, as well as reading Aristotle, Marx and Dostoevsky, he has written another book about Marxism and translated into Japanese the works of a leading Dutch criminologist.

Judge Joichi Ishida said that Nagayama had had an extremely unfortunate childhood and that he sympathised with him to a certain extent, but that his crime of killing four people was unequivocally, and the shock and horror felt by society, the death penalty was not too severe.

A critic of the death penalty in Japan said that the reinstatement of a more serious penalty was rare, especially in view of the length of the trial period. He criticized the judge for inconsistency in his argument and said that Nagayama had now become very idealistic and conscientious in his search for the roots of crime.

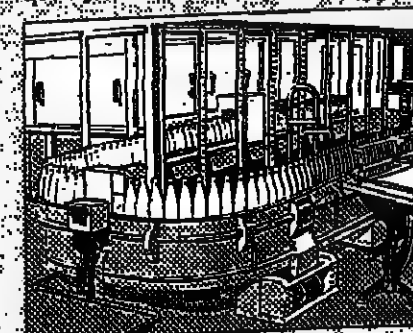
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Delay relevant to renewal of asset-freezing order

Lloyds Bowmaker Ltd v Britannia Arrow Holdings plc and Another
Before Lord Justice Dillon and Lord Justice Glidewell
(Judgment March 18)

Where there had been material non-disclosure by an applicant in obtaining a *Mareva* injunction, the other party was not debarred from seeking a discharge of the injunction on that ground even after a delay of two years.

However, a delay in pursuing the action after the grant of the injunction was a relevant factor to be taken into account by the court in deciding whether or not to preserve the status quo by granting the applicant a fresh injunction following the discharge of the original injunction.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by Mr A. G. Lavens (trading as Commend Communications) from Sir Neil Lawson, who, sitting as a deputy judge of the High Court on July 2, 1986, had refused to discharge a *Mareva* injunction obtained by Britannia Arrow Holdings plc to prevent the dissipation of Mr Lavens' assets within the jurisdiction.

Mr Jeffrey Burke, QC and Mr Colin Sturt for Lavens; Mr Patrick Twigg, QC and Mr Robert Moxon Browne for Britannia.

(1985) FSR 87; *Yardley & Co Ltd v Higson* (1984) FSR 304 and *Eastglen Corporation v Monpare* (1987) 137 NLJ 56.

His Lordship took the view that the injunction granted should be discharged.

The fact that Mr Lavens' advisers waited two years to make the application could have been material if Britannia Arrow were put at a disadvantage by the delay, but his Lordship could not see that they were.

In that respect, the judge had held that the delay did not debar the application for setting aside the injunction and his Lordship agreed with him. The *Mareva* injunction should therefore be discharged.

Mr Twigg urged that even if the first injunction was discharged, the court should exercise its discretion to grant a further injunction, or remit the matter to the High Court to enable a further application for a *Mareva* injunction to be made, and in some way to preserve the status quo in the meantime.

For some time his Lordship was of the opinion that that was probably the correct course to adopt. Certainly, on the more recent authorities it was his Lordship's view that the High Court would have a discretion to grant a second *Mareva* injunction, and it might well be that the court would have a discretion to preserve the status

quo pending the application.

Mr Burke argued, however, that it was at the present stage that delay did become relevant. He pointed out that it was now over two and a half years since the third-party proceedings against Mr Lavens were commenced and although the summons for directions was over two years ago, neither the action nor the third-party proceedings had been set down for trial.

His Lordship agreed that that was a most relevant consideration. A *Mareva* injunction was a draconian remedy. It was intended as an adjunct to the action not as a substitute for relief to be obtained on trial.

A plaintiff who succeeded in obtaining a *Mareva* injunction was under an obligation to press on with his action as rapidly as he could so that if he should fail to establish liability in the defendant, the disadvantage which the injunction imposed upon the defendant would be lessened so far as possible. There was no sign that Britannia Arrow had been active in pressing ahead with proceedings.

His Lordship was persuaded that the court should not grant a fresh injunction or take any other step to preserve the status quo because of the delay.

Lord Justice Dillon agreed.

Solicitors: Matthew Trackman & Co; Smyth & Co.

Possession despite counterclaim

Citibank Trust Ltd v Aylmer and Another

Although a surveyor's report, which disclosed evidence of rising damp and dry rot in a dwelling house, and which was paid for by the defendant mortgagors but not supplied to them by the plaintiff mortgagee, gave rise to a counterclaim, such a counterclaim could not defeat the legal mortgagee's right to possession; even if the defendant's prospects on the counterclaim were good that did not justify the court exercising its discretion in favour of the defendants under section 36(1)

of the Administration of Justice Act 1970 as read with section 8 of the Administration of Justice Act 1973.

Mr Justice Mervyn Davies so held in the Chancery Division on March 11 when making an order in favour of the plaintiff for possession of the defendants' dwelling house within 28 days.

HIS LORDSHIP said that *Barclays Bank plc v Taylor* (unreported, CA, June 6, 1984) showed that a counterclaim did not affect the legal right to possession.

Section 36 modified the rule

Felixstowe Dock & Railway Co v United States Lines Inc Freightliners Ltd v Same
Europe Container Terminals BV v Same
Before Mr Justice Hirst
(Judgment March 12)

An English court was not obliged to set aside *Mareva* injunctions obtained against an American company on the ground that by restraining the removal of the company's English assets, the court was preventing the assets from being administered by the US Bankruptcy Court and a creditors' committee pursuant to a scheme under Chapter 11 of the United States Federal Bankruptcy Code.

The existence of the Chapter 11 scheme was only one of the matters to be weighed in the balance in determining whether the injunctions should be discharged.

Mr Justice Hirst so held giving a chambers judgment in open court in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division and dismissing applications by United States Lines Inc to set aside three *Mareva* injunctions obtained against them by the plaintiffs, Felixstowe Dock & Railway Co (FDR), Freightliners Ltd (FL), and Europe Container Terminals BV (ECT), respectively.

Mr David Steel, QC and Mr Charles Haddon-Cave for FDR; Mr William Norris for FL; Mr Jonathan Harvie for ECT; Mr

Geoffrey Brice, QC and Mr Nigel Meeson for USL.

MR JUSTICE HIRST said that USL carried on a worldwide shipping business. They were incorporated in the United States of America and also carried on business in the United Kingdom.

After encountering severe financial difficulties, USL petitioned the US Bankruptcy Court under Chapter 11 of the US Federal Bankruptcy Code and obtained a "restraining order".

Such an order froze any claims against the company and enabled it to survive as a going concern while undergoing reorganization and retrenchment under the supervision of the creditor's committee and the court.

USL's position in September 1986, as disclosed by the Chapter 11 petition, showed assets of US\$1.25 billion and liabilities of US\$1.272 billion; but the company's English liabilities amounted to £2.4 million with assets of only about £20,000.

Under the Chapter 11 reorganization and retrenchment it was USL's intention to close down their European operations and concentrate their shipping activities mainly in North America.

Each of the plaintiffs had claims against USL and had obtained *Mareva* injunctions in England restraining USL from removing assets from the jurisdiction.

In the present proceedings USL applied to set aside the *Mareva* injunctions on the ground that international comity required that the English courts should recognize the restraining order of the US Bankruptcy Court and allow it to govern the disposition of USL's assets in England; and that the *Mareva* injunctions, by preventing them from being administered in accordance with the intentions of the Chapter 11 scheme and would allow the plaintiffs to gain priority over other creditors.

For the plaintiffs, it was submitted that the fundamental purpose of the injunction was to protect plaintiffs against a defendant transferring assets abroad so as to make him judgment-proof, leaving the plaintiffs with worthless judgments; and that any question of discharge or variation of the injunction in the present case was essentially one of discretion: the court should have regard to all the circumstances of the case in order to determine what justice required.

His Lordship said that it was indeed incumbent on the court to take into account all the relevant circumstances in the exercise of its discretion.

The Chapter 11 procedure was a very important circumstance, but it could not properly be treated as an overriding consideration so as to accord to it any kind of paramountcy or dominance over all others.

The court had to weigh up the competing assertions of the parties as to the irreparable prejudice which would follow from the continuance or discharge of the injunctions and the overall balance of convenience, applying the principles laid down in *American Cyanamid Co v Ethicon Ltd* (1975) AC 396.

The retention of the assets in the UK would give the plaintiffs security for their debts, whereas if the same fund were to be transferred to the USA, it would be a mere drop in the

ocean of the total assets and of marginal benefits to USL and the US creditors.

USL would suffer no material prejudice if the injunctions continued, since the assets would remain in the UK and there was no prospect of their being distributed without the intervention of ancillary winding-up proceedings.

It had been conceded, conditionally, that England was the appropriate forum for the resolution of the plaintiffs' claims and accordingly any objection to the English court continuing a conventional ancillary order was very weak.

On the other hand, if the injunctions were discharged, the plaintiffs would suffer substantial prejudice, seeing that the funds would be used to keep USL alive as a going concern in a manner from which the plaintiffs could not possibly derive any benefit because of USL's withdrawal from Europe.

Taking those considerations into account, and applying the *American Cyanamid* test, the overall balance of convenience strongly favoured the continuance of the injunctions.

Solicitors: Mr Simon K. Osborne, St Pancras, Westthorp Ward, Catchpole, Felixstowe; Norton Rose Bottrell & Roche; Hill Dickinson & Co.

No tax concession in avoidance case

Regina v Commissioners of Inland Revenue, Ex parte Fulford-Dobson and Another

There was no valid challenge to the decision of the Board of the Inland Revenue to refuse to extend "extra-statutory concessions" in a case where the admitted motive of the transaction was to avoid capital gains tax; nor were such extra-statutory concessions unlawful.

Mr Justice McNeill so held in the Queen's Bench Division on February 26 in refusing an application for *certiorari* to quash the decision of the Board of the Inland Revenue that concession D2 in *Extra-Statutory Concessions in Operation* at August 8, 1980 (IR 1980) did not apply in the instant case.

HIS LORDSHIP said that that concession provided that no capital gains tax was chargeable against UK residents who left the UK and ceased to be resident. That concession was subject to a general provision that concessions would not be given in any case where an attempt was made to use it for tax avoidance.

The case had been properly brought by way of judicial review since extra-statutory concessions could not be challenged by any other appeal procedure.

Motorist's sample offer was 'a refusal'

Grix v Chief Constable of Kent

Where a motorist refused to provide a specimen of blood in the course of an investigation into an alleged drink-driving offence but offered to provide a urine sample instead, he was guilty of the offence of failing to provide a specimen contrary to section 8(7) of the Road Traffic Act 1972, as substituted, and was liable to be disqualified unless he had a "special reason" which could be taken into consideration in imposing punishment.

Further, there was no obligation on the police to ask why a sample of blood was being refused or to arrange for a medical practitioner to attend to determine whether a sample of blood could not or should not be provided if there was nothing to put the police on inquiry as to possible medical reasons for the refusal.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Simon Brown) so held on March 12 in rejecting an appeal by way of *certiorari* from a conviction by a magistrates' court for failing to provide a specimen contrary to section 8(7) of the 1972 Act, as substituted in Schedule 2 to the Transport Act 1981.

MR JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that a police officer was not under a duty to take reasonable steps to determine whether a driver was raising a medical issue.

That would be reading too much into the dictum of Lord Justice Mustill in *Johnson v West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police* (1986) RTR 167 that "police officers cannot have power to rule on medical issues but do have the power to forward view whether such issues are raised at all" and sought to get an unacceptable gloss on the section itself.

Lesser use certificate

Bristol City Council v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another

When granting an established use certificate under section 94 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, the Secretary of State for the Environment might grant a certificate for a lesser use than that described in the application.

Mr Justice Stuart Smith so held in the Queen's Bench Division on March 16 in dismissing an appeal by Bristol City Council against the Secretary of State's grant of a certificate that premises at Fremantle Road, Bristol had an established use as a house in multiple occupation as six

households with six occupiers but refused a certificate that the premises had an established use as a house in multiple occupation as seven households with nine occupiers, as described in the application.

HIS LORDSHIP said he could see no reason for holding that either a local planning authority's power to grant a certificate under section 94(4) or the secretary of state's power under section 95(2) should be limited to the two situations described in section 94(3). Section 94(3) covered two special cases and those two cases should not govern the implied power of the sections. Interpretation of the Act in that way would have major consequences.

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This week the unwholesome brew was made yet more potent by figures showing an apparent acceleration in the growth of crime. This was combined with a pre-election eagerness to exploit the figures rather than to think about them. Labour said they showed the Government was failing, the Conservatives said the police had to deliver results before being given more manpower. Peter Imbert, meanwhile, the man due to accept the poisoned chalice from Sir Kenneth Newman on August 1, was quietly and unofficially meeting people.

The job of commissioner has a much higher profile than any other job in the police and, inevitably, every new appointee seems to emerge from the shadows. In Imbert's case this is as true as ever. He is a man to whom clear characteristics seem not to cling — in public at any rate — and whose outward identification as a "copper's copper" have made him seem a somewhat specialized individual. Even his recreations — golf and gardening — have a suitably anonymous air.

He is 54 and was educated at Harvey Grammar School at Folkestone in Kent. Beyond that his education extends only to courses in Russian and shorthand while he was a member of the Special Branch — a foreign lan-

THE TIMES PROFILE

PETER IMBERT

This week saw the publication of the worst crime figures on record. What can we expect from the new man at the Met?

guage and/or shorthand used to be the only definite qualifications laid down for membership of the Branch. After national service in the RAF and a brief spell in local government, he joined the Metropolitan Police in 1953.

From then on his career was to be a steady and exemplary rise through the ranks. But it was not to be a career in mainstream policing. He spent much of his time in the Special Branch investigating terrorists. He rose to become Deputy Operational Head of the Met's Anti-Terrorist Squad in 1973 and, in 1975, his head suddenly appeared above the public eye when he worked for six days, 12 hours a day, negotiating with the IRA men cornered in a flat in Marylebone's Belcombe Street.

From that point his career seemed to take off. He became Assistant Chief Constable of Surrey, Chief Constable of Thames Valley in 1979 and finally Sir Kenneth's deputy in January 1985. Through the years a limited degree of largely favourable publicity seemed to attend his moves and he took on a conscientiously international role, lecturing worldwide on ways of dealing with

terrorists and sieges. But at Thames Valley he took a startlingly bold step that many would now argue misfired. He allowed BBC television cameras to film a series of five documentary programmes called, simply, *Police*.

It was a move that some say was directly inspired by the open-door policies of press and public relations that had been pursued by Sir Robert Mark at the Met. The Mark strategy was to enlist as much of the public on his side as he could, simply by exposing the nature of the problems, and it was this justification which Imbert used afterwards: "I think the public are not only entitled but almost have a duty to know the difficulties of policing."

The scale of the risk he had taken became clear when one episode showed some of his detectives interviewing a rape victim. The police as a whole were pilloried for the starkness and brutality of the scene and the suffering caused to somebody who was, after all, supposed to be an innocent victim.

Shaken, Imbert started an investigation into interview techniques. It was a shocking baptism into the dangers of publicity for the man at the top. But one sympathetic former policeman defends Imbert's action: "What people don't realize is that the showing of that programme resulted in a tightening up of procedures in all police forces. Opening the door to publicity helped everybody."

In the event Imbert's career was unaffected. At Thames Valley he proved himself a smooth administrator, able to cope with the complications created by the fact that he had inherited an authority which had only just been created by amalgamating three smaller constabularies. Perhaps helped by the relative affluence and conservatism of the region, he ran into none of the usual clashes between



BIOGRAPHY

1933: Born April 27, in Kent. Educated at Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone.
1953: Joins Metropolitan Police.
1956: Marries Iris Dove. One son, two daughters.
1973: After work in Special Branch, made deputy operational head of Metropolitan Police Anti-Terrorist Squad.
1975: Negotiator at the Belcombe Street siege.
1976: Assistant Chief Constable, Surrey Constabulary.
1979-85: Chief Constable, Thames Valley Police.
1985: Deputy Commissioner Metropolitan Police.
1987: Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

local police committee and the force. "He was a popular man," says one former colleague.

All in all it is a story that offers few clues to what he might do to the Met. Certainly the open-door policy is likely to continue and Imbert seems better qualified than Sir Kenneth to pursue it. Sir Kenneth has always been a slightly academic, theoretical and somewhat remote figure whose belief in frankness has not easily been translated into practice.

Imbert, by contrast, is pragmatic, amiable and approachable. He tells anecdotes to prove points and makes much of the "six black faces in my family" — he has multi-racial in-laws — to pre-empt any charges of racism. He even thought it worth mentioning the pink streaks in his daughter's hair and her punk boyfriend as a way

of establishing a lack of prejudice. And he is given to homely anecdotes about a copper's lot. He tells stories of constables convinced, without clear evidence, that something is suspicious and finally being vindicated with the aid of backup from sympathetic "guvners". This last element is important as he believes in the sanctity of the man on the front line's "hunch".

"That hunch or instinct that something's wrong," he has written, "is hard to define. But every policeman knows it."

This is not just a veteran's sentimentality, it is intended as a direct criticism of last year's Police and Criminal Evidence Act as well as every other attempt to tie the force's hands. For Imbert, like many other policemen, believes that the empirical reality of polic-

ing is what counts. Results can be achieved only if the men on the street are allowed to follow their noses without being hindered by legislation or political interference.

This, of course, is all good nonsense, get-on-with-the-job stuff. But it leaves one big question unanswered about his role at the Met.

"Imbert is not a great intellectual," observes one of his former bosses. At Thames Valley this may not have seemed so important. But London has an inescapable intellectual dimension. It is not just another constabulary — it is the representative police force. Not only does it have the biggest policing problems, it is also at the political sharp end. This means that much of the time Imbert will be setting

priorities at a national rather than a local level. And at this level one man's dogged pursuit of a hunch can all too easily become another man's infringed civil liberty.

The same former policeman believes this demands a high degree of intellectual insight. For him, as for many others, the crime figures are a red herring. It is too well beloved of politicians. For a start the police are convinced that the figures are unduly high because of increased reporting — by victims as well as by the police — of crime rather than increased incidence.

But, more importantly, crime is not simply a police problem and it includes large areas in which the police can, in fact, do absolutely nothing. In addition, "Sir Kenneth's continuing plea" for more money for more officers is not central, instead, he says, "there are the two key questions of public order in its widest sense and public accountability."

The first involves complex issues of politics, race and industrial disputes in which the police are simply not able to rely on a broad base of public support and the second raises the issue of their constitutional role and the degree to which effectiveness can be traded off against perceived justice. So far Imbert has suggested the use of a crown court judge as an Ombudsman as a sop for the demands for more accountability.

But both issues require a "good deal more" than the chaplain, homely virtues of a "copper's hunch". It remains to be seen whether Imbert has more to offer.

Bryan Appleyard

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Big Golden Mountain (Dajinshan) rises out of the foothills that form much of Pinggu County, 90 miles north-east of Peking. At the base of the mountain lies the village of Jiangjianshan, or General's Pass, named for an adjacent break in the Great Wall. Around the dusty village with its population of 1,000 households, enormous pink sows burrow contentedly into the yellow loess soil of the North China plain. In the still, clear air children's voices mingle with familiar household sounds.

Such scenes are repeated every day across China. What is unusual about Jiangjianshan is that, in two swatches, each 12 feet long, the main street of the village is paved with gold. Men wielding hand-battered rakes spread dull, flaky ore, mixed with stones and earth, so that it will dry quickly. After drying in the sun, the ore-laden earth is scooped up by shovel and carried a few hundred yards to four primitive grinding stones which transform it into fine gravel, mixed in its turn with water to form a slurry.

The peasants throw the slurry on to one of 12 wooden pens and wash it with more water, just as California prospectors did in the 1840s. The water carries away the lighter dirt, leaving behind the heavier gold, which

There's gold in those old hills

is taken by bicycle to a nearby Bank of China collection centre where villagers receive as much as 994 yuan, about £190, an ounce.

For the last seven years the village has been allowed to develop for itself a State gold mine located high up on the slope of Big Golden Mountain. The programme is part of

More liberal economic laws now allow the peasants of China to mine gold for their private profit

Mr Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms, which focus on creating light industries in rural areas. More than 80 per cent of the village's able-bodied workers dig gold on Dajinshan. Previously, the mine, which pre-dates the Communist take-over in 1949, was run by State workers. Now the State provides only basic maintenance. Some families, said Mr Cai Rongguai, a village spokesman, make as much as £1,900 a year from their share of the gold profits. That figure seems all the more remarkable when one consid-

ers that the villagers mine gold only in winter. In summer they spend most of their time raising wheat, vegetables, pigs, goats and sheep.

The mine has brought them unprecedented prosperity. Television antennae sprout from roofs, and most of the dwellings are less than four years old. The few derelict buildings that remain from pre-gold rush days testify to the villagers' former poverty. Each male villager who can wield a pick and shovel is paid for as much gold as he can bring out of the mine. The miners may keep all the money from the gold that they sell, but the State taxes them up to two-thirds of the total amount they earn from the mine each year. Gold has also brought new prosperity to China as a whole. State statistics claim that more than 200,000 Chinese now prospect for gold on their own, with the most

lucrative gold-producing centres located in Qinghai and Guangdong provinces, and in the Ningxia Hui and Inner Mongolia autonomous regions.

According to China Gold Company officials, during 1986 there was a 14 per cent increase in gold production. But like oil production figures, precise gold statistics remain closely guarded secrets in China.

That increase, on top of 10 years of 10 per cent annual production boosts, has added billions of US dollars to China's coffers through international sales of gold at more than \$400 (about £260) an ounce.

China's increased gold production may be attributable in part to the fact that its gold and hard currency reserves have dipped below \$10 billion (about £6.4 billion), a relatively high level by international standards that nevertheless alarms the penny-pinching Central Government. This year Pinggu County alone will contribute about 300 kilograms of pure gold to the national gold-gathering effort.

Some Western historians say that China has been mining gold for more than two millennia.

Robert Grieves

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It's back to square one

Why disillusioned maths and physics graduates are quitting industry and returning to school for teaching careers



'All over Britain you'll find people who feel a real attraction to teaching'

Dr Bob Campbell (second left)

I might be any school-teacher. The teacher faces in front of the blackboard while the class tackles a maths problem. Pencils scrape, heads are scratched and whispers are heard — "that can't be right", "can I borrow your rubber?", "how did you work that out?" and, strangely, we never did anything like this in my day."

But this is no ordinary class. The place is York University, the "pupils", 15 maths graduates aged from 27 to 49. The lesson is part of an imaginative three-day course held last week to help the "pupils" decide whether to move to a teaching career.

The "Taste of Teaching" course was the brain-child of the education lecturer, Dr Bob Campbell, and is part of a personal crusade. "I'm answer to the chronic shortage of physics and maths teachers lies out there," says Dr Campbell, jabbing a finger towards the City of York. "All over Britain you'll find people who feel a real attraction to teaching but took another career. Many are now dissatisfied with their jobs but don't know enough about modern teaching to chance a change in direction."

On arrival the 30 students were asked to list the questions they wanted the course to answer. They came from all over Britain and included research scientists, administrators, housewives, engineers, computer programmers and even a weather man, yet they had the same worries. Indiscipline in schools came top of the list, followed by sustaining the motivation to teach and pay and promotion.

The first day dealt with career prospects and modern teaching methods. The 15 maths graduates found themselves discovering how many different shapes you can make by putting five squares together. Do the shapes all have the same area and circumference and how many can be folded to make an open top box? Such problem solving is the modern way to teach maths but it got a mixed reception.

"I think it's a terrific idea," said Jean, a 34-year-old Cheltenham housewife with an Open University BA. "It's so much better than the maths I did at school." Not everyone agreed. "I think a lot of children would just regard it as a game and wouldn't learn very much," said Howard,

aged 41, a computer programmer from Brighton. "And I'm not too happy about children making so much use of calculators."

"Well, today we concentrate on doing things," said the tutor. "Even if the kids think of it as a game, they still get exercise in maths and the calculators allow you to concentrate on relationships between numbers without the drudgery of hand calculations."

A hundred yards away, 15 physics graduates were tackling laboratory experiments. "How would you react to a pupil pointing to a circuit and asking 'why is one bulb brighter than the other?'" asked Campbell. "I'd explain Ohm's Law and write an equation for the circuit," said Bill, a 44-year-old Keighley chemist with a PhD. "No marks there," said Campbell. "I'd change the circuit around to find the reason," said Sally, aged 26, a scientist with the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. "That's more like it!" said Campbell. "Experiment to find exactly what's happening and you can then work out why."

The second day, spent in York comprehensive schools, came as a shock to many and was the turning point of the course. "I was very surprised," said Bill. "I was looking for graffiti and disorder but the atmosphere was fine. But it was a shock meeting with children. I like the idea of teaching but I don't think I could cope with the daily wear."

Jean's reaction was quite the opposite. "Today in school was fantastic. I had a lot of worries but they all evaporated. The staff were so enthusiastic. They really believe the job is worth the hassle. I've felt that way for a long time but never realized it. I'm so fired up now — I'm hooked!"

"We didn't put anything special on," explained Mike Plevins, head of science at Huntington School. "They saw everything, warts and all. But getting some mature teachers with industry and business backgrounds into schools is a great idea. I'm amazed at the numbers and their qualifications are incredible. Computers and electronics are the buzz words when you appoint a physics teacher. Look at John there. Twenty-two years in the electronics industry, research and production and enjoys mountaineering and martial arts. The schools will be fighting each other to give him a job."

The students have pretty uniform reasons for considering a new career. Martin, a 33-year-old PhD scientist with British Gas, is typical. He works near London and "has always fancied teaching."

Research seemed a better bet but now he's disillusioned. "The cost of living down south is ridiculous," he said. "The mortgage on our \$45,000 flat is crippling us and the career structure is incredibly stodgy. I'll lose £2,700 a year moving to teaching but the cheaper housing up north will make it worthwhile."

About one-third of the students couple a new career with a move away from the south. Most are unhappy with their present jobs and one-third are unemployed. Bob Campbell's conviction that many talented mature people are just waiting to be spotted was certainly borne out by 275 inquiries and 136 applicants for 30 places.

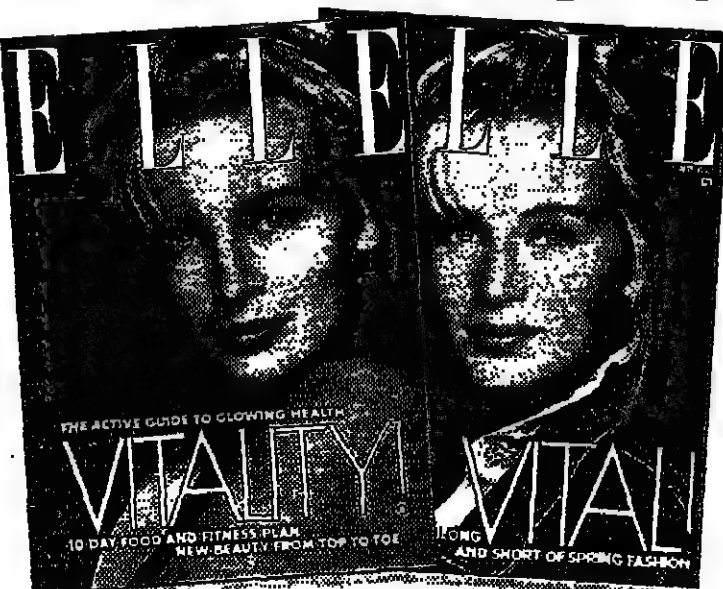
New teachers acquired in this way could help solve the maths and physics teacher shortage. That situation already appears bad, but Campbell believes the underlying problem is even worse. New recruits in these subjects are falling, and schools are forced to appoint the "least weak" candidates from a poor field. Increasing numbers are leaving teaching and the true shortfall is masked by many teachers who are untrained in maths and physics transferring from other subjects. The pupil boom expected in the 1990s will coincide with this growing shortage.

Campbell believes that mature recruitment is the answer and the university agrees. The £17,500 course was backed by the Manpower Services Commission, and the Department of Education at York has already applied for University Grants Committee funds to hold a second one.

Keith Hindley

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VITAL ISSUES



April ELLE puts a spring in your step. Reach for this month's super active double issue, featuring a separate 32 page guide to Health, Beauty and Vitality. Stretch to fitness with ELLE's new exercise programme.

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1210

ACROSS

- 1 Commentator's feature (6)
- 4 Herald's jacket (6)
- 9 Gathered ruff (7)
- 10 Nearest pub (5)
- 11 Plant bristle (4)
- 12 Pulsating (7)
- 13 Outstanding work (11)
- 18 Wine merchant (7)
- 19 As well (4)
- 22 Varnish compound (5)
- 24 Double decker (7)
- 25 R.C. conscience examination (6)
- 26 Ennity (6)

DOWN

- 1 Sleeve end (4)
- 2 Wanton (5)
- 3 N.Y. commercial island (9)
- 5 Piercing tool (3)
- 6 Very out of date (7)
- 7 Make weaker (6)
- 8 Alden Barony (11)
- 11 Total (3)
- 12 U.K. coin emblem (9)
- 15 Memory loss (7)
- 16 Moral (3)
- 17 Disinfectant (6)
- 20 Straight jacket (5)
- 21 Second-hand (4)
- 23 Born (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1209

ACROSS: 1 Boudoin 5 Opus 9 Bulldog 10 Alone 11 Swamp 12 Sprat 13 Ambule 15 Swan 16 Alder 18 Coral 20 False 21 Midwife 23 Yo-yo 24 Infernal

DOWN: 1 Bibble 2 Unlearn 3 Old 4 Inquirer 5 Bergman 6 Plot 7 Shupe 8 Taj Mahal 11 Stanchard 14 Bodice 15 Study 17 Kitch 18 Play 22 Doc

HEALTH

The ills of efficiency

Why is a hospital that has slashed waiting lists and improved after-care being penalized for its success?

Jill Sherman reports

Last month, Social Services Secretary Norman Fowler visited the rural town of Kidderminster, in Worcestershire, which lies at the heart of one of the most efficiently run district health authorities in Britain. Kidderminster can boast that it treats more patients per bed than any other authority, that it has low costs and short waiting lists, and has an excellent service for the mentally ill and mentally handicapped. For the patients it means faster appointments, shorter waiting times and better after-care.

The district appears to have achieved everything that the Government has been pressing for over the last few years, and is now proudly held up by Fowler as an example to other health service managers. But as Fowler was told forcefully on his recent visit, the authority is being penalized for its own efficiency.

As more patients are seen, so the costs rise. Waiting lists have crept up as general practitioners refer more patients for operations such as hip replacement. This week the district will be discussing contingency plans for redundancies and ward closures which will mean cuts in patients' services for the first time. Doctors are being told to hold down the number of operations performed. The apple of Fowler's eye has been pared to the core and most of the pipe has been squeezed.

"The good times are over," says Kidderminster district general manager, Jeremy Hallett. "It costs to be successful. If we were in industry we would get the Queen's Award for Industry and our profits would soar. In the NHS we get the reverse — we are penalized."

Performance indicators, comparing one authority against another, are now the buzz words in the Department of Health and Social Security and Kidderminster scores top marks in most areas. While the average health authority in England treats under 40 patients a year in a general surgery bed, Kidderminster District General Hospital treats 65. Its record in trauma and orthopaedics is even higher with 73.2 patients



Paying the price of excellence: Cutbacks rather than expansion for Caroline Martin, head of Kidderminster's acute and community service

seen per bed compared to the national average of 32.

A patient would expect to stay an average five and a half days in a general medical bed at Kidderminster DGH, while in other parts of the country he would have to stay nearly twice as long.

In some parts of the country doctors are now beginning to fight against the pressure of increasing turnover in hospitals and claim that people are being dumped on the community. But Hallett says that Kidderminster has one of the highest ratios of community

ill and the mentally handicapped, both hailed as some of the best in the country. This reputation has now encouraged families with mentally handicapped children to move to Kidderminster. Derek Muhl, unit general manager for mental handicap, is brimming with ideas on how to improve services. One of his most successful projects has been a bungalow providing residential and respite care for six mentally and physically handicapped children.

Most of the children have been transferred from a ward for mentally handicapped children in Lea Castle Hospital, Kidderminster, which has now closed. The bungalow was furnished using £10,000 from the Government's £1 for £1 scheme, matching resources from the local parents and friends association.

Good management has held the reins on an uncontrollable development of patient services. The district is divided into two management units — acute and community, headed by Caroline Martin, a former deputy administrator at Bristol Royal Infirmary, and the mentally handicapped unit, headed by Muhl.

In the past three years the district has saved one per cent of its £2 million budget every year, which has been put towards a pool for priority services. The savings have come mainly from competitive tendering for services such as laundry and cleaning, energy savings of £50,000 and reductions in ancillary, administrative and clerical staff. Capital savings have come from the sale of surplus NHS property.

'The good times are over. It costs to be successful'

nurses in the country, and a high number of health visitors, so that people coming out of hospital have access to good support.

Kidderminster's record is partly an historical accident. It is a small district, with only one acute — or district general — hospital. The GPs get on well with the consultants and the consultants seem to be on unusually good terms with the managers.

The district has also built a new medical block recently, and a new geriatric unit. "Good facilities attract good people," says Dr Richard Taylor, chairman of the medical staff committee.

Unusually good relations with the local authorities in the area have also helped the development of facilities in the community, particularly those for the mentally

Hallett suspects that it will be difficult to find further cost improvements. "You cannot go on becoming more and more efficient. We have reached the point where any more savings will start to cut into the basic level of health care provision."

Yet, under pressure from regional managers and legally bound not to overspend each year, Hallett has now told his unit general managers that more cost improvements must be made next year — the acute and community unit alone having to find

'We are not getting any rewards for our high performance'

£100,000. Caroline Martin is now having to make invidious choices about services. These have included asking consultant orthopaedists to reduce the number of hip operations they perform so that they can take on more knee implants that used to be done outside the district. The district already relies on the local League of Friends to fund the cost of all medical equipment and some maintenance work.

Martin has drawn up a list of 30 service developments which will now be scrapped, including extra nurses and clinicians to cope with the increased workload caused by the unit's fast turn-around of patients; plans for a comprehensive call and recall system for cervical cytology has also had to be abandoned. The existing

Slower cars but faster children

The Budget cut in the price of lead-free petrol may hit speeding, but could produce brighter youngsters. Liz Gill reports

The Chancellor's move to cut the cost of lead-free petrol is a milestone in an important health crusade: it gives a financial boost to an environmental ideal. So far motorists have had to balance conscience against cost — if they could find such petrol in the first place as it is only available at about 200 outlets in Britain.

But now both ecologists and experts in the motor industry believe that at least the way has been paved for a major change. The dangers of lead pollution have been long established. The greatest concern has been aroused by research linking it with adverse effects on children's intelligence.

As a neurotoxin, lead interferes with the biochemistry of the brain, causing concentration and learning difficulties and a reduction in intelligence. One recent survey in Glasgow found that some children with a high lead content in their bodies had IQs six points lower than those without. Other studies have linked increased levels to hyperactivity and hyper-aggression, leading to such antisocial behaviour as hooliganism and violent crime.

The other problems with lead are that, unlike many other pollutants, it remains in the atmosphere for hundreds of years, its effects are only partly reversible and there is no safety threshold for its absorption. This is measured in micrograms of the metal per decilitre of blood. The point at which one would go into coma is 80; the point at which alarm bells ring for the Department of Health is 25 — that's where they start trying to discover the source.

However, because children are small, some specialists believe they can suffer behavioural and intelligence disturbances at levels as low as five micrograms per decilitre. Most children in urban areas have levels of between 10 and 25, according to CLEAR, the Campaign for Lead Free Air.

Dr Robin Russell Jones, the chairman, says: "Lead is introduced into petrol artificially as a way of boosting the octane level and hence the performance. What we've always said is that you have to choose between the performance of your car and the performance of your child."

A report in 1983 from the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution cited lead as a potential toxin for all vertebrates

and recommended immediate reduction in man-made dispersal. In a developed country the motor car is said to be responsible for 90 per cent of the emissions. The government accepted the principle (two spin-offs were that lead in paint was outlawed and fishing weights more strictly controlled) and at the beginning of last year, as an interim measure, lead emissions were reduced by 50 per cent in petrol.

In 1985, an EEC directive required all members to make lead-free petrol available by 1989 and to encourage its widest use. CLEAR hopes the latest move will bring about the conversion of all cars in this country at the rate of 15 per cent a year. Environment Minister William Waldegrave hopes that at least 50 per cent will have switched by the 1990s.

Esso has led the move into lead-free petrol and has more than half the outlets, but the majority of cars that can use it are



Petrol pollutants: lead-laden fumes

foreign. Texaco lists no Fords or BJs, only one Triumph, the Acclaim, plus a couple of Range Rovers, Land Rovers and the new two-litre Rover 820s. The modification of other models ranges from the simplest de-tune — about half an hour's work in a garage — to the more costly valve changes which could push costs up into the hundreds of pounds.

Texaco have set up a free phone system to advise motorists on their car's suitability. Graham Dymond of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders estimates that only 9 per cent of cars currently on the road can run on unleaded petrol. "The industry is producing cars that will use it as fast as it can, but we do think there will be a need for both types for some years," he says.

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Chill or cure

The Belgian doctors' battle to save the life of Nicola Newson when she suffered severe hypothermia after the sinking of the Herald of Free Enterprise were crowned with success when it became apparent that although she had been immersed for a considerable time, and it was thought had stopped breathing, the hypothermia had so reduced the oxygen requirements of the brain that it had suffered no damage. The British Medical Journal report a similar case from Avicenne when a woman skier was so deeply buried in snow that breathing was prevented for 20 minutes. After being disinterred she was given mouth-to-mouth resuscitation; she started to breathe spontaneously within two minutes, but recovered consciousness in 20 minutes, and two days later left hospital with her intellectual ability unimpaired. In this case too the brain was saved by chilling; at normal temperatures damage would occur after three minutes. In both cases the cold water or snow entering the nose and mouth helped to chill the brain rapidly; the effect of cold on the face causes a reflex slowing of the heart.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Smear tests

People may be concerned when the result of a cervical smear is mislaid or misdirected, but their anxieties would be better directed at the number, up to 30 per cent in most estimates, of false negative results. In these cases smears are reported as being normal by the

pathologist although important changes have already occurred in the woman's cervix. The source of error is more likely to lie with the doctor taking the smear than in the laboratory, so that any procedure which makes smear-taking easier, more accurate and which does not require such a complete sweep of the cervix, is likely to have substantial medical benefits.

Pulse magazine reports that Dr Thomas Dormandy, a pathologist, and Mr Albert Singer, a gynaecologist, have started experimental work at the Whittington Hospital on a test using liquid chromatography. An advantage of the test is that the cells can be collected from a wide area of the cervix and not necessarily from the patch where histological cell changes have occurred. In an examination of 175 women at the colposcopy clinic, false negative results were reduced to 8 per cent.

Trouble puffs

According to a report from the Medical Research Council's unit at Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, women who smoke may have a more troublesome menopause than non-smokers. Doctors have shown a close association between the number of cigarettes smoked and the need to take hormone replacement therapy to alleviate a wide variety of menopausal symptoms. The research was based on the case histories of 402 women on HRT.

Mousse trap

Many doctors have been suspicious of mass-marketed soft fruit since distinguished colleagues were struck down by hepatitis A after a dinner of the Apothecaries Society at which strawberries were served. Investigations showed that an itinerant picker had urinated over them. The journal *Epidemiology and Infection* reports on another recent outbreak in which the origin of the infection could be traced via the raspberry mousse served in an hotel to a band of itinerant workers whose campsite which lacked adequate lavatories and washing facilities. Frozen raspberries, when unwashed, can be a very effective means of spreading hepatitis A.

Dr Thomas Stottford

Revolutionary Breakthrough for Baldness

Doctors can now prescribe home treatment. The Mediform Clinic can now offer a new treatment which has been shown to slow the balding process and, in some cases, reverse it and promote the growth of new hair. Results could be dramatic; hair stops falling out and becomes thicker. The treatment is simple. A qualified physician prescribes a course of treatment, then you simply take it home and apply it to your scalp daily. Unfortunately not everyone with hair loss can benefit from the treatment. For this reason the Mediform Clinic is offering free Nationwide private consultations to advise if subjects are suitable for treatment.

Those who wish to know more about this remarkable breakthrough, and would like to arrange a free consultation in their locality are invited to telephone 01-629 8340 (London), 061-236 0927 (Manchester) or post the coupon for full details.

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TOMORROW
Barbara Amiel on sterilization: does knowing more mean caring less?

ANNE BANCROFT ANTHONY HOPKINS

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On the menu this month in Taste magazine... Clare Ferguson reveals her party recipe for Spring lamb with Parma ham and garlic...

Pamela Westland travels to Greece for an Easter feast, while Frances Bissell takes us on a cook's tour of Leeds market...

Robin Young offers unconventional wisdom on the choice of wine to complement beef...

Patricia Lousada introduces would-be pastry cooks to the mouthwatering possibilities of filo and Jill Foster has some new ideas on omelettes...

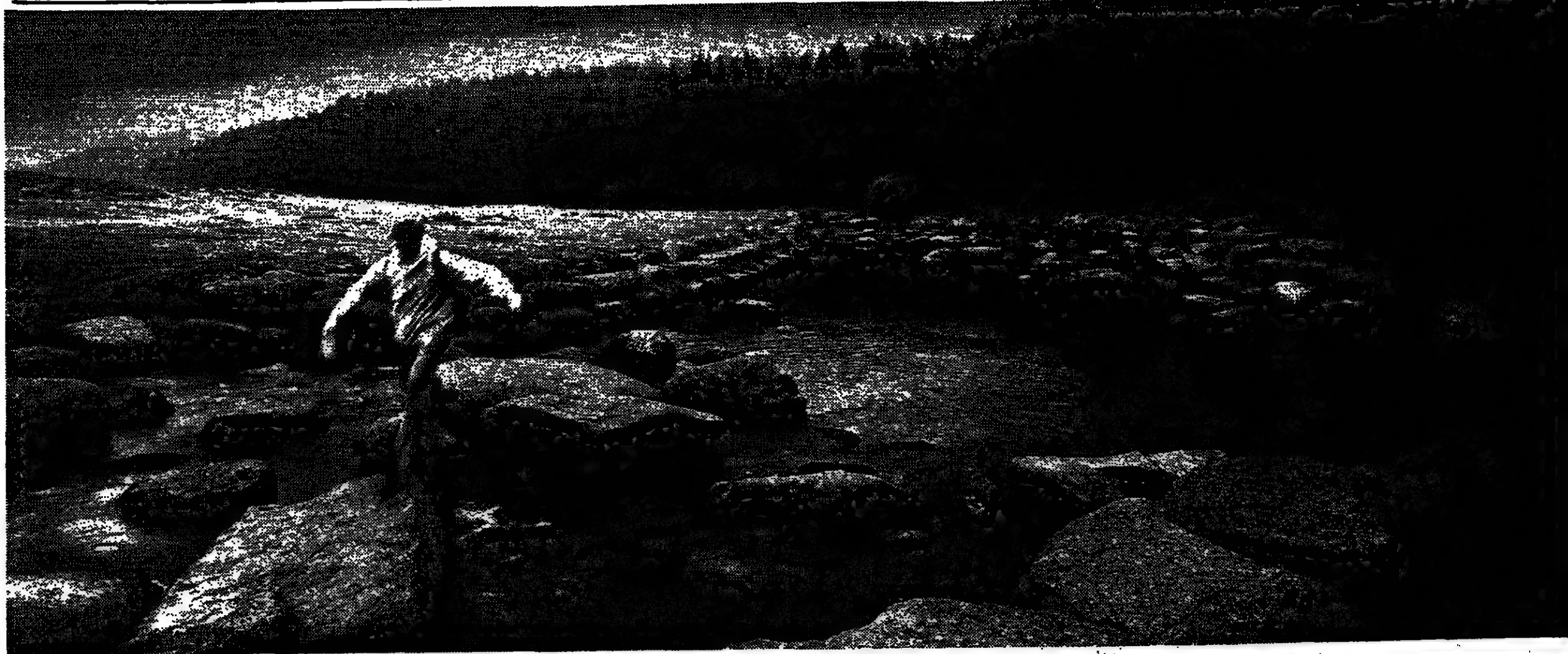
In the Chef Class this month, Deh-Ta Hsiung shows you how to produce a perfect Peking duck...

While in Kitchens Plus Robin Murrell presents a practical guide to kitchen planning...

All this and much more, make Taste well worth buying this month — and every month!



April issue of Taste Magazine. At your newsagent now!



Just another day at the office.

Your alarm buzzes for the second time. A freezing mist lies heavily over the camp. Your radiator is barely warm.

6.15 am

From the room next door a worn-out tape of Dire Straits shakes another young officer awake. On your left you can just hear Mozart's Flute and Harp decorating the morning. With close friends like this, who needs a radio?

You wash, shave, pull on a tracksuit and jog over to your platoon's block.

Outside, twenty two bleary-eyed soldiers await your arrival. What are you going to torture them with today?

They'd know if they'd bothered to look on the notice board: an eight mile run.

"Come on, you know you can do it?"

And in fact they can. It's all part of being a professional.

Panting back, strung out like washing on a line, leading from the front one minute, urging from the back the next, you pass another platoon swimming an icy river. Your men shout derisive encouragement.

7.45 am

A quick shower and you change into uniform.

You walk past portraits of distinguished Generals and spruce Brigadiers to breakfast in the mess.

Most officers are on first name terms but somehow you always seek out friends of your own age and rank. Not that it matters much, hardly anyone talks at breakfast.

You could choose muesli and yoghurt (heaven knows you've vowed to often enough) but the smell of fried bacon and mushrooms overwhelms your best intentions.

8.45 am

Time to inspect your platoon not so much for bull but well-being.

You make eye-contact with each man.

Is one still having trouble with his girlfriend? Is another's wife still fed up with married quarters? Has a third got over the flu bug?

A look can often tell you something

you should follow up in private later.

You tell one of your Corporals to take them off on anti-tank weapon training leaving you to discuss the day's programme with your senior NCO.

He's a Sergeant six years older than you whose knowledge and experience you have learned to respect greatly.

You tell him you've arranged a showing of a film about the Falklands war, what went right, what went wrong and why.

You check on one soldier whose sick leave has gone on suspiciously long, then on to preliminary planning for next Autumn's exercises in Cyprus.

10.45 am

During the coffee break you bump into an Army Air Corps Officer who's just flown in the Brigade Commander by helicopter.

He's hacked off that a unit he was due to do abseiling exercises with next week, has suddenly been re-deployed.

Your mind races. "Hang on."

You'll need an instructor and permission from your Commanding Officer, but your men will get a day's abseiling 90ft down from a hovering helicopter.

They're really knocked-out when you tell them after a radio codes lecture just before lunch.

12.30 pm

The light falls through large windows onto long, polished tables and finds reflection in illustrious regimental silver.

However often you walk into the dining room you always feel the tradition: the battle honours from wars you studied at school.

Sitting at the table are many of the colleagues who will become life-long friends. You find a place among them and chat.

"Soup or melon sir?" You serve yourself to the other two courses.

Afterwards there's just time to flick through a newspaper in an armchair built uncompromisingly for masculine comfort.

2.00 pm

You drop in on your platoon while an NCO is demonstrating the new SA80 rifle.

They are silent as he holds up its lethal, efficient lines for them to admire.

Like a car salesman he feeds them facts ... "automatic fire ... only two-thirds the

weight, smaller calibre ..."

Knowing you won't be needed, you leave. The men have to learn practical map reading. This afternoon you can plan a course.

2.35 pm

Armed with stopwatch, map, compass and notepad you drive in your third-hand Alfasud to some woods in the next county.

As you run through the empty landscape, it starts to rain and you step in a pool of liquid mud. Brambles tear at your track-suit. Was this such a wonderful idea?

But in two hours you're back in the car with the heater full on, one trainer full of mud and a desperate need for a cup of tea.

Still, you've planned another day's training.

6.00 pm

Your bed has been made and your room cleaned but your dirty clothes are a matter for you and the regimental washing machine.

Exhausted but with a quiet mind you sit down to write a report on a Corporal who's asked permission to apply for a commission.

His career could depend on what you write. You're thinking deeply, pen poised, when there's a knock on the door. It's one of your brother officers looking disgustingly fresh.

"You haven't forgotten we're playing squash before supper?" he enquires. "Not tired are we?"

The Corporal's application will get better attention in the quietness of the evening.

Meanwhile, there is someone who deserves a good thrashing on court.

Please send me more information about life as an Army Officer.

Full name _____

Home address _____

Date of birth _____

Place of study _____

I have or expect to obtain ☐ O-levels (no.)

☐ A-levels (no.) ☐ degree or equivalents as applicable.

Send to Major John Floyd, Army Officer Entry, Dept. A057, Empress State Building, London SW6 1TR.

 **Army Officer**

THE TIMES DIARY

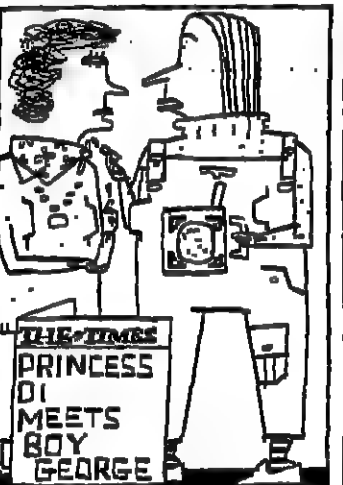
Norman's norm

Waltham Forest's Labour council has fallen foul of the borough's best-known MP, Norman Tebbit. As well as allocating £2,500 for books for homosexuals, it is planning to buy *Jennie Lives* with *Eric and Martin* for its public libraries. The story of a child living with her father and his male lover was condemned last year by Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary as "pretty blatant homosexual propaganda." Tebbit yesterday said he had heard that Labour councillors, who took control last May, were trying to infiltrate "dirty books" into children's libraries (in fact *Jennie* will appear on the main library shelves). He added: "I expect Neil Kinnock to act to ensure these councillors never stand again." The bad news for the Tory chairman is that although it had nothing to do with choosing *Jennie*, the £2,500 was earmarked by library officers last March - under a Tory administration.

Valley to rift

The split between Jim Callaghan and Neil Kinnock over defence can scarcely be anything but a sadness for both. Callaghan's imminent autobiography, *Time and Chance*, paints a picture of 20 years of happy families in the valleys. He describes how his son, Michael, shared a flat at university in Cardiff with a fellow student by the name of Glensy Parry. "Glensy was a friendly girl," he effuses, "with a ginger-haired, freckled, cheerful, argumentative companion by name of Neil Kinnock. In the 1964 general election I recall Neil drove a loudspeaker van around the constituency extolling the virtues of the Labour Party. Twenty years later he would lead the Labour Party and I would be a back-bench supporter."

BARRY FANTONI



Going pop

Just in case Mrs Thatcher decides against an early election, the Alliance is planning a series of events to ensure it is not forgotten in the lazy, hazy summer days. The most spectacular will be a day-long open-air rally at Knebworth Park in Hertfordshire, scene of many of the great pop concerts of the past two decades. The fare on offer will include speeches by all the leading Alliance figures, lightened by so far unspecified acts of entertainment.

© Sign on the cemetery gates in Peterborough: "Do not enter, no exit at the other end."

Gift of the gab

The mother of Parliaments is still capable of doing a fledgling independent democracy a favour. Following overtures from the Caribbean islands of St Kitts-Nevis, which gained independence in 1983, the British Speaker's office is making arrangements to supply a wig for the speaker of its national assembly. As a gesture of friendship, I understand, the powdered hairpiece will be given as a gift.

Spouse trap

The chancellorship was as nothing to the catenae of another Oxford battle between Somerville don Barbara Everett and novelist A.N. Wilson. It began with Miss Everett's suggestion in the *London Review of Books* that Shakespeare's sonnets may have been addressed to his wife. Wilson, pointing to Shakespeare's references to his lover's high birth, asked: "Why - when the Hathaways were not even a notable gentry family would Shakespeare, even in jest, write in this way to his wife?" Miss Everett, accusing Wilson of "some limit of conjugal experience", snapped back: "If you don't know, I can't tell you." Nor has she been troubled by Wilson's reply, citing a "recent scholarly work" in his defence. It is by his wife, Katherine Duncan-Jones. "It can only be proper to assume," Miss Everett observes in the latest issue, "that Wilson is as partial to Mrs Wilson as I am arguing Shakespeare was to Mrs Shakespeare."

Boys out of blue

Police officers at the Thames Valley force's Kidlington headquarters are smarting from a sartorial dressing-down from their chief constable, Colin Smith. He has banned the wearing of the dark blue sweaters, introduced by his predecessor, Peter Imbert, who is to be the next commissioner of the Met. Smith apparently considers them scruffy.

June, autumn or '88? Robin Oakley looks at the pros and cons

Election: Thatcher's options

With a generally popular Budget behind her, Mrs Thatcher will come under increasing pressure to call an early general election. There will be no immediate decision. That must wait - at the earliest - until Sunday, May 10, when the Prime Minister, her party chairman, Norman Tebbit, and a clutch of advisers meet at Chequers to pore over the detailed computer analysis of the local government elections four days earlier, together with a brace of follow-up private polls.

A similar meeting was held on the Sunday after the local elections in May 1983. Mrs Thatcher announced the election the following day, Friday, May 13, and the country went to the polls on June 9, 20 days later.

Conservative Central Office has long regarded the results of this year's local elections as a more dependable guide to the outcome of the general election than any opinion polls. Once she has them, Mrs Thatcher, with election fever rampant, will have to decide whether to go for June or stand the nation down for a few months at least.

What are the options? Here are the main factors that will determine her decision.

MAY

The first seriously considered date for the election is May 7. Arrangements have already been made to permit a parliamentary contest on the same day as the local elections. The Budget and Mrs Thatcher's talks with Mr Gorbachov in Moscow would be fresh in the public mind: Labour would have had little time to recover from its present disarray and the Alliance would be badly stretched by having to fight local and national election battles on the same day.

Against May 7 is Mrs Thatcher's conviction that the voting public does not regard it as "their game" for a government to go to the country before it is into its fifth year in Parliament. She would be exposed to taunts that she was "cutting and running" and people might begin to feel there was some truth in Labour's claims of an impending economic crisis.

The Tories would also be gambling on temperature-takings by opinion pollsters instead of evidence from real votes cast in real polling booths. The Budget tax cuts would not yet have shown up in pay packets, nor would home owners have written new standing orders for lower mortgage repayments.

JUNE

Those Thatcher advisers who favour June 11 or 18 would be able

KEY POINTERS TO TORY THINKING

March 25-28: Neil Kinnock in US to see President Reagan.
March 28-April 1: Mrs Thatcher in Moscow for talks with Mr Gorbachov.
March 31: Department of Employment completes interviewing long-term unemployed under Re-start programme.
April 8: Last date, passes for calling an election on May 7.
July 16: Local elections at district level in England and Wales (excluding London). Seats last contested in 1953.
May 10: Mrs Thatcher and top advisers expected to meet at Chequers to analyse local election results and follow-up polls.
Mid-May: Bill abolishing domestic rates in Scotland expected to become law.
May 14: April unemployment figures.
May 17: Pay packets start to reflect Budget tax cuts.
May 28: April trade figures.
June 8, 9, 10: Mrs Thatcher on world stage at the Venice summit of the seven leading industrialized countries.
June 8: Fourth anniversary of 1983

Tory election victory. Mrs Thatcher thinks the public resents a government calling an election before its fifth and final year.
June 18: May unemployment figures.
June 25: May trade figures.
July 16: June unemployment figures.
July 24: June trade figures.
July 31: Commons session due to end. Criminal Justice Bill would need until then for completion.
August 13: July unemployment figures.
August 25: July trade figures.
September 1-4 (unusually early): SDP conference in Portsmouth.
September 7-11: TUC, Blackpool.
September 13-18: Liberal assembly, Harrogate.
September 17: August unemployment figures.
September 24: August trade figures.
September 28-October 2: Labour conference, Brighton.
October 5-8: Tory conference, Blackpool.
October 18: September unemployment figures, taking account of summer school leavers.

to argue that lower mortgages would be a fact by then and post-Budget pay packets would be fatter. Though there would still be charges of "cutting and running", the government would at least be into its final year. And Mrs Thatcher would be able to argue convincingly that election fever was hampering the process of government.

If, as expected, the Alliance had picked up seats in the local elections, Central Office might urge Mrs Thatcher to go to the country before Labour crumbled any further and the Alliance took off. If she did, she could conveniently burnish her world statesman's image by taking three days off from the campaign, as she did when she flew to Williamsburg in 1983, to attend the economic summit of the seven most industrialized nations in Venice on June 8, 9 and 10.

June is the current favourite among ministers. One or two might grumble that the 18th would interfere with Royal Ascot, but it could well be the choice if the Tories stuck to their original plan of a long campaign in the hope that Neil Kinnock's voice, and nerve, might crack. The Prime Minister would be less likely to opt for June 25; the May trade figures are out that day, and a bad set would back Labour's claims of an impending balance of payments crisis.

The argument against a June

date would be the expected Alliance gain in the local elections. Better Tebbit and Co might say, to let the Alliance be forgotten during the summer lull. And there we have the essential issue. When those Central Office computers whirr with the analysis of the local election votes, Tebbit and his team will be looking for three things:

● A clear Conservative lead which would, if necessary, stand some erosion during the election campaign.
● Confirmation that Labour's threat had crumbled.
● Indications that the Alliance threat could be contained.

The Conservatives think they have Kinnock beaten already, but they fear that the Alliance might get a handwagon rolling. (Support for the Liberals in 1979 and the Alliance in 1983 rose by one third during the campaign.)

The Tories will want a minimum lead of seven points over Labour and an Alliance vote in the local elections no higher than around 25 per cent. The closer the Alliance vote is to 30 per cent the more the Tories would be inclined to wait.

SEPTEMBER

Because no party wants an election in the main holiday months of July and August - though, with proxy and postal votes, there is no longer a valid reason against one - the next serious candidate is late September. The arguments in

favour include the fact that the government's popularity tends to rise during the holiday period when not much happens to arouse political passions. There will have been longer for the previous autumn's public spending increases, the Budget measures and training programmes to work through and it becomes that much harder for the opposition parties to argue that the government is running away from trouble.

The Criminal Justice Bill, the centrepiece of this year's parliamentary programme, would have had the chance to become law, which would be lost in a June election.

According to Treasury forecasts, consumer spending will be rising faster in the second half of the year, unemployment will continue to fall and inflation will again be heading down after an upward blip in the summer.

Against September, from the government view, is the thought that Lawson's Budget largesse would have been forgotten, or at least be taken for granted, and Labour might have made good use of the summer to get its act together.

One other snag. The SDP, already, has arranged its conference much earlier than usual this year, starting on September 1. It could be turned into an Alliance election jamboree that would have a major impact.

OCTOBER

The arguments for and against an October election - and few prime ministers have ever risked sending their canvassers out on the doorsteps any later in the year - are largely the same as those for late September, but by then the Budget and Mrs Thatcher's Moscow trip will be even more distant memories.

SPRING 1988

Mrs Thatcher can, of course, wait until June 1988. That would look more seemly for a government which has always emphasized its long-term objectives. Unemployment measures would have had still longer to work through. Lawson would have the chance of another Budget, and has already pencilled in the £3 billion of fiscal adjustment which would allow him to bring the standard rate of income tax down to the psychological breakthrough point of 25p in the pound. But prime ministers hate to get boxed in with no other option if a Westland-style crisis crops up at the wrong time. And with election speculation already rampant it is doubtful if the country could bear the strain of waiting until then.

Lynn Davis spells out hidden dangers in the Euro-missile proposals

Short-range missiles are now a deciding factor in whether there will be an East-West agreement on intermediate nuclear forces (INF) in Europe. The West is seeking constraints on Soviet SS-21, SS-12/22 and SS-23 short-range missiles, for what appear to be good political and strategic reasons. But are they?

These missiles, with ranges between 60 to 600 miles, can threaten many of the same targets in Western Europe as the SS-20, which is being eliminated. The missiles are mobile and so, even if withdrawn from East Germany and Czechoslovakia, could be returned quickly and secretly. Nato has only a few short-range missiles (Pershing 1A and Lance), and because of geography they cannot threaten comparable targets in the Soviet Union.

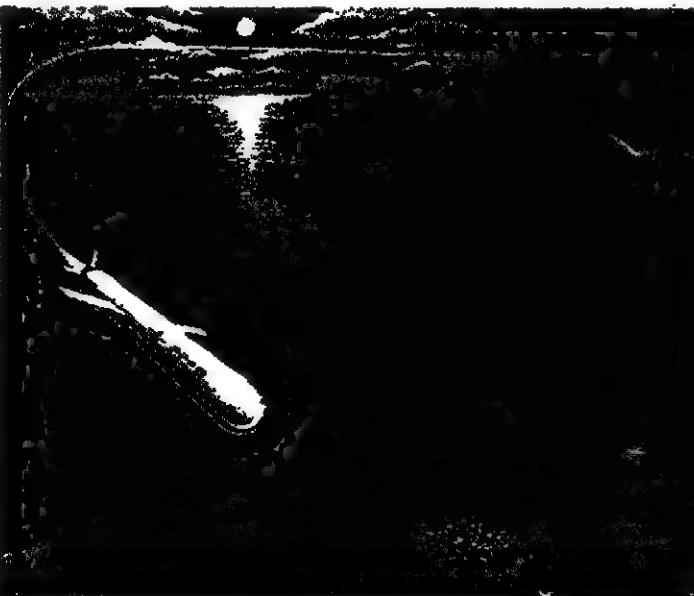
Given Mikhail Gorbachov's interest in an INF agreement, the West may have an opportunity to reduce the Soviet numerical advantage in short-range missiles. Nato appreciated in 1979 the difficulty in singling out particular categories of nuclear forces for negotiation but decided to do so in the expectation that any INF agreement would be linked closely to the follow-on SALT negotiations. Europeans were particularly anxious not to create the impression of a separate Euro-strategic balance, and many preferred to negotiate combined limits on strategic and intermediate nuclear forces.

In his January 1986 proposals, Gorbachov began exploiting the problems and contradictions in the Nato arms control position. In proposing the elimination of INF in Europe, he did not link an agreement with progress in SALT or on the American Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars), thus encouraging the codification of a distinct and separate INF balance. He did, however, link the ban on INF with his overall objective of eliminating nuclear weapons in Europe, holding out as bait follow-on negotiations on shorter range systems.

For a variety of political reasons, the West acceded to most of what Gorbachov proposed. But on reflection, is this how we should proceed? Would it not be better to postpone any constraints on short-range nuclear forces until Soviet-American differences have been resolved over the future of strategic offensive and defensive forces, and steps have been taken to reduce the Warsaw Pact's advantages in conventional forces?

Without their 800-plus SS-20 warheads in the western USSR, the Soviets retain a formidable nuclear threat against Western Europe in their strategic nuclear forces, with intercontinental ballistic missiles of variable range, medium-range aircraft, and short-range missile systems, both cruise and ballistic. The approximately 700 SS-21, SS-12/22, and SS-23 are part of this threat, but certainly not the most important or most destructive.

The long, short (and medium) of arms control



Another ingredient the West must take into account: an artist's impression of a Soviet submarine-launched cruise missile

The United States has been modernizing its nuclear forces over the past 10 years - primarily its strategic Triad, but also its sea-based cruise missiles, its theatre aircraft, and its nuclear artillery. Nato's strategy of flexible response does not require matching the Warsaw Pact in numbers of particular kinds of nuclear weapons. The agreed objective is to deter by putting at risk what the Soviets value, and to make the stakes unacceptably high if deterrence fails. Taking into account Soviet and American nuclear forces, Nato will be able to accomplish this even without INF. Whether the American nuclear capability will remain credible as a deterrent in the view of both Soviet and European leaders is a separate matter.

No Nato government is prepared to accept Gorbachov's goal of eliminating nuclear weapons in Europe. Nato has no choice but to rely on nuclear weapons, given its disadvantages in conventional forces. So the issue is whether it makes strategic sense to proceed, as Nato is currently doing, to expand the negotiations in Europe downward from INF in terms of the range of nuclear weapons, towards Gorbachov's objectives of eliminating nuclear weapons in Europe.

An answer to this question depends in the first instance on whether Nato believes it needs to deploy its own short-range nuclear missiles as the intermediate ones

are eliminated. The US Army Chief of Staff answers yes, and has called for the replacement of the Pershing 2 with a single-stage version having a range of about 450 miles. Reports have also appeared that the US army would like to develop a nuclear warhead for its new shorter range attack missile. West Germany currently has 77 Pershing 1A missiles, and has been considering whether to modernize these. No consensus exists within Nato as to whether it needs new short-range nuclear missiles.

Prudence would suggest that before agreeing to arms control measures, Nato ought to decide what kinds of nuclear systems in Europe it needs after the elimination of medium-range missiles, and how its requirements would be affected if Soviet short-range missiles were reduced.

As Nato still relies on some nuclear weapons, the obvious problem is that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to halt the arms control negotiating process after short-range missiles. It is not clear what incentive the Soviets would have in accepting its own reductions in these systems without a commitment by the West to negotiations on all nuclear weapons in Europe - a step toward the longer-term Soviet goal. Public pressure can be expected to build to that same end.

But even putting aside these considerable risks, it is really all that important militarily to the

West to achieve constraints on Soviet short-range missiles, given that the Soviets have so many other nuclear weapons threatening Europe, which are currently not being constrained in any parallel agreement? Far more important is the prospect that there will be no limits on those nuclear weapons of longer range than INF (which all threaten quite effectively the existing INF target), both because of the deadlock over SALT and actions by both the US and the Soviet Union undercutting the SALT 2 treaty.

What should the West do now? The outstanding issues in the negotiations for an INF agreement - primarily verification - should be addressed on their merits. In any agreement, both sides should undertake a general commitment not to circumvent it through other nuclear weapons systems in Europe. Only the possibility of follow-on negotiations on nuclear weapons in Europe should be accepted.

Priority should be given in arms control negotiations to gaining constraints on strategic offensive forces, thereby seeking to avoid codifying a separate nuclear balance in Europe. Hence the deadlock on Star Wars must be broken. US objectives in SALT should also be refined in light of the agreement to eliminate INF in Europe, ensuring that ballistic missiles will continue to play a role in extending deterrence.

Furthermore, attention should now be given to determining the West's objectives in conventional forces, as a prelude to designing proposals for future negotiations on nuclear forces in Europe. In this discussion, the West needs to decide what kinds of short-range nuclear systems are essential to maintaining a credible flexible response strategy in the absence of a balance of conventional forces. In other words, negotiations on short-range nuclear forces should follow, not precede, steps in reducing the disparities in conventional forces.

It is not too late to take these steps, for Viktor Karpov, the chief of the Soviet arms control delegation, has just announced that the Soviets wish to keep the negotiations on short-range missiles separate from an INF agreement. Essentially, Nato needs now to finesse negotiations and limits on short-range nuclear forces in Europe and have the courage to explain to the public that, as long as Nato relies on nuclear weapons for its deterrent strategy, it will give priority in arms control negotiations in the aftermath of an INF agreement to strategic offensive forces and conventional forces.

Otherwise the West risks starting down a very slippery slope in future arms control negotiations, which can only serve Soviet objectives, not Nato strategy.

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Ronald Butt

Kinnock's great Budget fumble

Neil Kinnock's limitation as a political leader was vividly exposed in his reply to the Budget, immediately the Chancellor had sat down. The traditional obligation on every Opposition leader to respond at some length to a Budget speech, of which he has no prior information, is of course a hard task. But it can be done well if two criteria are met.

First the reaction should be an honest one, within the terms of the opposition party's economic policy, and should relate to what has just been heard. Second, the leader of the Opposition should be able to make a judgement for himself and not simply regurgitate the ideas dreamed up by advisers on what they expected he would be hearing.

Neither condition was fulfilled by Mr Kinnock. As he had seen things, the Chancellor would have £5 billion to give away without increasing the indicated total of £7 billion of public sector borrowing in 1987-88 (which was also the planned total for the current year, though it will now actually be about £4 billion). With an election looming, what could Nigel Lawson be expected to do, as Labour saw it, except give all that £5 billion in voter-bribing tax cuts? So Kinnock no doubt inspired his researchers to find other instances of Tory chancellors giving massive tax cuts before an election and having to withdraw them afterwards.

They came up with Rab Butler's 9d off income tax in 1955. It gave Kinnock his line, which he duly trotted out with appropriate references to his parents' pre-fab and Butler's remarks about port and pheasants. He described it as a "bribe Budget" and afterwards Roy Hattersley agreed, adding that if the Tories were re-elected they would have to take it all back again.

In the event, however, the Budget assigned only £2.5 billion for tax cuts, the rest going to reduce the public borrowing target to £4 billion. But because he cannot think quickly on his feet, doesn't understand economics and makes the mistake of assuming that the Tories will conform to his own stereotype, Kinnock persisted with his scriptwriters' line. Only later did a refinement begin to emerge from a baffled Roy Hattersley, whose own instant reaction on television was that here was a chancellor who "astonishingly" had £7 billion to sling around but who nevertheless had not (as we can be sure Mr Hattersley himself would have) "Why? Because, according to Mr Lawson, the government has to cut and run since there is a balance of payments crisis looming."

Now it is not easy to belittle a 4 per cent inflation rate, rising economic growth and productivity, an increase of £4.75 billion in public spending last autumn, and £2.5 billion tax cuts, when all this

still leaves room to reduce public borrowing by £3 billion. But it belittling is necessary there must be better ways of doing it than asserting that the Chancellor will have to claw back his modest tax cuts; after all, it is part of Labour's thesis that public sector borrowing could be well above £7 billion, let alone £4 billion, without causing inflation.

There is, of course, some electioneering in the Budget. Lawson has targeted his tax cuts where he thinks they will do the government the most electoral good, principally towards people with middle incomes and somewhat below. For myself, I should have preferred to see the money concentrated on raising the initial threshold into tax, to increase the gap between the benefit from earned income and from social security. On the other hand, this is the most expensive form of tax cutting and its effect is spread thinly. Besides, people do not understand it as clearly as they understand 2p off income tax. It is also a consideration that the rise in the tax threshold will not benefit the highest earners.

It would be a more-than-human chancellor who gave nothing to those sections of the working population whose votes he needs, in order to give something to those whose votes he is unlikely to get. Appealing to your own constituency (as Labour also does) is honest electioneering. Doing so by tax cuts which damage the economy would be dishonest electioneering. It would also be politically foolish. The government's principal asset is its reputation for economic probity. In the past it has risked votes when necessary to keep the economy on course and has been rewarded. It would be mad to throw that reputation away now, and it tells us something about the judgement of the Labour leaders that they cannot see this and adjust to it.

Because of a short-term move into a current account deficit after years of surplus, they mutter about a balance of payments crisis. They do not know whether to accuse Lawson of giving too much or too little. Most inappropriately, they attacked the Budget for doing nothing about jobs when, quite apart from such concessions as that on profit-related pay, it makes possible lower interest rates that are the first essential to continued growth and employment. The £3 billion not spent on tax cutting or public services is the price of cheaper borrowing. What would the rate of interest be under Labour economic management and what would be its consequence for jobs?

Labour has a problem. It assumes a following - a famous precedent, that what it says often enough will be believed. The trouble is that it repeats its own propaganda so unthinkingly that it begins to believe it itself.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Miss Prudence is their darling

Mr Lawson, in his Budget speech on Tuesday, had said he would try to keep the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement at one per cent of the Gross National Product. "This will maintain a degree of fiscal prudence that, until this year, had been achieved on only two occasions since the 1950s," he added.

It was another welcome sign that the feature editors of the big Treasury documents now regard Miss Fiscal Prudence as the most popular girl with their readers. For the red-blooded foreign exchange dealers and merchant bankers who read them, Prudence is the Samantha Fox of those papers ("Who needs demand management when Pru's around, fellas?")

According to the gossip columns, Pru is always quavering with the live-in companion with whom she has shared the Treasury for years - spendthrift, upper-class ex-soldier, Major Refutation. But the Major's problem was that somewhere in his past he had had a relationship - or at least was associated - with ballet-loving Bloomsbury grouper, Maynard Keynes. This made Keynes' remaining friends in the Treasury vulnerable to attack in the tabloids ("Treasury linked with Gay economist").

In the end, the Major had to go. By Tuesday's budget speech, Prudence was living alone in the massive Treasury building off London's Whitehall. Friends said she was "very happy".

But yesterday Mr Roy Hattersley, the chief Opposition spokesman on economics, made a scurrilous suggestion that all was not as it seemed in Pru's private life. Opening the resumed debate on the budget, Mr Hattersley claimed that, in their speeches around the country, Conservative backbenchers had been told to use the word "prudent" to describe the budget. Whereupon, he insisted: "It has not been a prudent Budget. It is not prudent to spend £20 billion on holding unemployment at more than 3.5 million. Nor is it prudent to sacrifice the £30 billion the country would earn if those people were back at work. It is not prudent either to allow the quality of housing, hospitals, schools and roads to decay to the point of disintegration."

"It is not prudent to squander the country's revenues. Manufac-

turing output and investment have collapsed. It is not prudent to escalate the deficit on the balance of manufacturing trade. It is not prudent not to secure the homes of the old and weak against the disastrous rise in burglary and robbery."

He seemed to be suggesting that the girl who turned up in the budget was an impostor. She was not the real Pru at all. It will be up to Mr Hattersley to prove this astonishing charge. But, in a way, it was a tribute to Fiscal Prudence's popularity with the public that the Opposition felt it necessary to deny that she had ever been near Mr Lawson.

In the past, the Labour Party had always tried to convince people that it had a relationship with Pru's rival, the Treasury Model. She promises full employment, welfare, no tax increases to any politician who feeds her. She's anybody's.

Replying to Mr Hattersley, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr John McGregor, protested: "He tried to claim it (the budget) was not prudent!" The Chief Secretary said it in such a way as to suggest that no charge could be so damaging to a Government's reputation. But he seemed to draw comfort from the country's presumed scepticism towards everything Mr Hattersley says. "No one will believe it," said Mr McGregor.

He insisted that the Government's policy was to "maintain prudence". The girl would perhaps have wished he had not suggested she was being maintained by anyone. ("I'm no kept woman," says Pru.) But Tory backbenchers seemed pleased at Mr McGregor's assurance. So would anyone worried about future inflation.

The Tory backbench finance expert, Sir Peter Horden, became the first member to accuse Mr Jenkins of putting on airs since being elected Chancellor of Oxford. He said he did not have to give way just because Mr Jenkins was Chancellor of Oxford - the first of many such dreary points.

Mr Jenkins himself plunged us all back into doubt by saying that the budget's tone was "more that of complacency rather than of prudence". But among Tories Prudence can now only be supplanted in their affections by fun-loving, seductive Miss June Pail.



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ALL CHANGE ON DEFENCE

For Mr Kinnock to tell the White House that it can keep its cruise missiles in Britain, when the Americans are trying to get rid of them, would seem to be politically maladroit. At best it seems as if the Labour Party is trying to climb on the back of a passing bandwagon, before it finds itself completely overtaken. At worst it sounds like desperation. No wonder he made known his change of heart when everyone else was thinking about the Budget.

Having said that, one must still welcome the volte-face. Mr Kinnock, aided and abetted by Mr Denis Healey, has already been at pains to make his party's defence policy look less bizarre. The recent clash of heads with Mr Callaghan underlined the deep division in Labour ranks. If he can reassure Washington that his party will not undermine the present arms control initiative, he might still make its unilateral stance appear more acceptable.

He may yet have to move a little further, though, given the other straws now flying in the wind. The most significant of these was tossed up by Sir Geoffrey Howe in Brussels earlier this week, in a speech which might also have been given more prominence had minds not been focused more on Westminster.

While stressing the continuing importance of Nato as the ultimate guarantor of European security, he proposed a European defence strategy, based on Europe's own conventional forces and the British and French nuclear deterrents and constructed round the Western European Union (WEU). This is the

post-war European defence alliance which has always been overshadowed by Nato.

The idea is not completely new. Defence strategists and politicians on both sides of the Atlantic have been talking for more than a decade about strengthening the European "pillar" within Nato. But it has never advanced very far, partly because no-one has quite decided where to start and partly because there has been a fear of undermining Nato.

European governments are at last having to face up to a changing world in which their interests and those of the United States are not always going to merge in perfect harmony. Washington is looking increasingly towards the Pacific, to its concerns in Central America and to Asia.

Not only that, but the superpowers seem to be moving towards an agreement which would remove all intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) from Eastern and Western Europe. The US cruise and Pershing-2 missiles were installed partly to counter the Russian SS-20s — but partly also to strengthen the nuclear coupling between the Old World and the New.

The new missiles would provide a visible reassurance of the US nuclear guarantee for Europe. If that coupling is now removed, it does not mean the nuclear guarantee goes too — but psychologically it makes Europe feel more vulnerable. Divided over trade, by differing perceptions of each other's national interests and by lingering Congressional suspicion that the Europeans are

not pulling their weight in Nato, the two halves of the alliance are being forced to think about changing conditions.

One difficulty about strengthening the European pillar has always been the attitude of the French. But the enthusiasm in Paris for the WEU has recently been matched by increased interest in nuclear co-operation with Britain. The French have also shown themselves ready to accept that their deterrent would hold a nuclear umbrella over West Germany as well.

The possibility of a European deterrent, involving two decision-making centres in London and Paris — complementing rather than substituting for the American nuclear guarantee, is starting to look less preposterous than it did. It would certainly extend the role of Trident — which is why the Labour Party might need to think again.

A European defence strategy might thus see Nato becoming gradually more federal — an alliance between two halves. The WEU, if it were to provide the means, would need to be strengthened and extended — to absorb more than the existing seven nations (Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and the three Benelux countries).

Given the continuing fear of driving away the Americans and their 330,000 troops in Europe, no-one is going to press for sudden change. The process is likely to be evolutionary. But change of some kind is happening all round us and Europe has to be prepared now to adjust to it.

THE CHANCELLOR'S OMISSION

The Chancellor's fiscal caution earned a swift reward in financial markets yesterday with the second half point cut in short-term interest rates in nine days. More could eventually follow. But Mr Lawson's Budget indulged in one piece of wholly unwelcome caution, which had nothing to do with spending or borrowing and everything to do with making the income tax system fairer. There was no mention in his speech of the Government's long-delayed proposals to reform the taxation of married couples.

The reason for this omission, the Chancellor claimed yesterday, is that the Government has yet to make up its mind. This hardly suggests that reform stands high on the Chancellor's list of priorities. It should.

There is general agreement that the present hybrid system of joint and separate taxation is too complex, discriminates against marriage and still treats women as economic second-class citizens. That became clear in responses to the Green Paper issued by Sir Geoffrey Howe back in 1980.

Two years ago, Mr Lawson promised to pursue reform and issue another Green Paper. This finally appeared with last year's Budget. Admittedly, the interminable process of computerizing Inland Rev-

enue operations remains a barrier to reform. But, after such long consultation, there seems no reason to delay a policy decision any longer.

The 1986 Green Paper recommended abolishing the married man's allowance in favour of separate allowances for husband and wife, which either could choose to transfer to the other. Consultation has shown widely drawn majority support for that proposal. It raises the tax status of women and removes one incentive for couples to live in sin, by allowing separate taxation of investment income. For married couples who both want outside employment, it cushions the fall in income when one loses a job or when a wife gives up work to bear children.

Transferable allowances would also remove the present tax penalty against families where one partner chooses to look after the family rather than be in paid employment. By raising total allowances for one-earner families, it would help those currently caught in the poverty trap when extra income incurs both taxation and loss of benefits. Against these many virtues, it would give a questionable tax benefit to the small minority of childless couples with only one earner.

Opposition to the proposals is nonetheless fierce. Ironi-

cally, it comes chiefly from those feminists who argue that transferable allowances would reduce the incentive for married women to seek work, or return to work after child-rearing. The husband could use both allowances anyway, so a wife re-entering the labour market would have no extra allowance on the income she earned.

Given the need for reform, it is up to those who want to maintain the artificial incentive for married women to enter the labour market to produce acceptable alternative proposals. They have failed to do so.

Their preferred system of mandatory separate taxation with single non-transferable allowances would severely hurt low-income families with only one earner, or where one partner lost a job, thus snaring more families in the poverty trap. A costly increase in child benefits, paid to all families regardless of income, would be needed to overcome this inherent flaw.

It is hard to believe that the Government would contemplate a tax reform in the cause of fairness that would require an open-ended and indiscriminate rise in public spending. It should therefore take courage and pursue the Green Paper proposal.

AN UNEQUAL PARTNERSHIP

The talks which began yesterday in Geneva between officials of the European Community and the East European economic grouping, Comecon, are expected to establish formal relations between the two, or at least set a timetable for so doing. This would bring to an end 30 years of non-recognition and open opportunities for direct economic co-operation between Eastern and Western Europe.

While the establishment of relations between two major economic organizations is broadly to be welcomed as a step towards institutionalizing contact and a way of fostering better East-West understanding within Europe, this should not obscure the fact that there are difficulties. So far as the European Community half of the partnership is concerned, there are also risks, and these need to be confronted before it is too late.

The nature of the two organizations is quite different. The European Community is a congregation of equals which works as a group for the benefit of all. Comecon is led and dominated by the Soviet Union. Whatever changes Mr Gorbachev envisages in the way the Soviet Union's foreign trade sector functions — and there is every indication that these could be profound — this

inequality is likely to remain.

The economic principles of the two groupings are also at variance, if not diametrically opposed. To a greater or lesser degree, the economies of Eastern Europe are centrally planned. Their production plans are determined not by the market, but by ministries and ultimately the Communist Party. The Soviet Union now allows individual enterprises to trade directly with foreign companies. It is also encouraging joint ventures with Western concerns. But the funding comes from the state, and it is the state and not the market which will have the last word.

Assuming direct relations between Comecon and the EEC are established and that this comes to mean something more than periodic discussions of principles, the vexed question of pricing will arise. Pricing is a contentious subject even within Comecon, where trade is conducted in convertible roubles — convertible, that is, within Comecon.

Even if the "convertible" rouble were eventually to become fully convertible, the problem of equivalence would remain. East European industries and many prices are heavily subsidized. Strict safeguards would have to be introduced to define and pre-

vent dumping. Access for Comecon to Western markets would have to be balanced by direct access for EEC companies to East European markets — another potentially divisive issue.

Such problems are not necessarily insoluble. The EEC already has relations with a number of individual Comecon countries, but bloc to bloc relations are of a different order. It is true, too, that the greater concession has so far been made by the Soviet side — in agreeing to formal discussions. It was Moscow's ideological resistance to dealing with a capitalist grouping that prevented even informal discussion before 1981.

The new Soviet interest is, however, just one aspect of a reassessment of foreign economic relations which has also brought overtures to Gatt, the IMF and the World Bank. Consequently, the EEC must recognize that Moscow is unlikely to be proceeding solely from a desire for improved political standing in the world. More likely, its decision reflects a shrewd appraisal of its economic interests, as the Gorbachev leadership strives to modernize and upgrade the Soviet domestic economy. The West should adopt the same approach.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Doubts about the ferry disaster

From Professor R. E. D. Bishop, FEng, FRSE, and Professor W. G. Price, FEng

Sir, Although there has been much speculation about the cause of the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster, serious doubts remain. One can agree that sufficient water over the vehicle deck would cause a capsize due to hydrostatic instability. This would require that a large mass of water had already entered the hull and leaves open the question of how it got there.

Surely the fine form of a fast ship is unlikely to throw up a bow wave sufficiently large to enter the vehicle deck when the ship is at 15 knots. No persuasive explanation of the ship loss has yet appeared in the Press so far as we know. May we, therefore, offer a suggestion?

If a dart is thrown tail first, it displays a directional instability which is of aerodynamic origin. The dart refuses to fly tail first. Directional instability can also affect a ship, which is of hydrodynamic origin. When it does, the vessel cannot be controlled by its rudder and "broaches to", veering to port or starboard.

For a given ship, the tendency to broach is promoted by high speed, a bow down attitude (particularly in shallow water) and the possession of a bow roller. In such conditions a ship that increases speed will gradually become less easy to control and more directionally unstable. Broaching is not necessarily associated with

heavy seas and, if it occurs, is usually violent.

The yawing motion associated with broaching is accompanied by a sharp roll, the direction of which is likely to be "outwards". Instead of either skimming the top off a bow wave or (more probably) remaining clear of the water, the bow aperture would be driven into the sea on one side by the roll. Water would then enter and, being in the forward end of the hull, would further depress the bow and so aggravate the broaching. Eventually, no doubt, the vessel capsize because of the water's movement of water and vehicles within her.

We do not suggest that this is anything more than a guess, since all sorts of questions need answers. The idea also needs checking mathematically and, possibly, by model testing. If it were found to be substantially correct, the inferences as regards the appropriateness of blame would clearly be profound.

Moreover, while no one would condone going to sea with bow doors open, the relative importance of installing internal bulkheads in ro-ro (roll-on, roll-off) ships and of allowing such vessels to go to sea bow down would presumably be a matter for debate.

Yours faithfully,
R. E. D. BISHOP
(Vice-Chancellor),
W. G. PRICE
Brunel University,
Uxbridge, Middlesex.

'Polarisation' rules

From Lord Bruce-Gardyne

Sir, As a participant in the recent House of Lords debate regarding the so-called "polarisation" of financial advice and the way in which the Securities and Investments Board is proposing to interpret the Financial Services Act in this respect, I read the letter from Mr John Butterfill, MP, (March 4) with interest.

None of us, I think, who participated in that debate, from whatever viewpoint, would disagree with Mr Butterfill's assertion that "consumer protection is far more important than a secondary profit source for the clearing banks". The question is whether the SIB's proposed interpretation of the Act would add to consumer protection or to consumer bewilderment.

Of course, the customer should know the salesman's interest at the point of sale. But what the SIB has proposed is that a bank or building society manager should be debarred from fulfilling his statutory obligation to recommend to the

customer the product in his judgement best suited to the customer's need, when that product does not happen to be a "company" product.

Instead, he should be required to refer customers to an "independent intermediary", who would be under no obligation to disclose the differential between the commission he would stand to receive in respect of the recommended product and the commission he would stand to receive from the sale of an alternative product.

It really is not obvious that the consumer would be thereby better protected. Indeed the evidence produced by the recent report from the Office of Fair Trading on the selling of life assurance policies, in which the vast majority of complaints concerned the activities of salesmen, suggests the opposite.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE-GARDYNE, Director,
TSB Group plc,
PO Box 33,
25 Milk Street, EC2,
March 10.

Benefit of doubt

From Mr Peter Ustinov

Sir, A well-wisher brought Mr Bernard Levin's article "On Guard — or Gorbachev will tickle you red" (March 9) on Gorbachev's Russia to my attention, and I am grateful to him. Mr Levin writes with such extraordinary insight and authority on subjects as challenging as intelligence and stupidity that it is hardly surprising that he sometimes confuses the two.

After all, the cardinals who doggedly maintained that the earth was flat must have been extremely intelligent. In other words, while Christopher Columbus might well have been deemed stupid at the time for taking the risks he did.

Mr Levin is one of nature's pontificators, and owes his great erudition to books and reports rather than risk the rigours of personal experience. In that sense, he is one of the cardinals' men. It is a pity.

Test-tube ruling

From the Bishop of Birmingham

Sir, When the Church of England recently decided to prepare legislation concerning women priests, Cardinal Hume issued a statement expressing regret because this would set back the cause of Christian unity.

Sadly, the same has to be said about the new "authoritative" Vatican statement on human embryology and fertility (report, March 11), which includes a condemnation of artificial insemination (husband).

It is strange that the statement contains no mention of the increasingly popular gamete inter-fallopian transfer, a technique which inserts male and female gametes into a wife's fallopian tube, where conception takes place. However, on the principles laid down in the Vatican statement, this too seems to fall under condemnation.

It is not always realised that sharply defined ethical differences between churches can be as much a barrier to Christian unity as dogmatic differences.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH BIRMINGHAM
(Chairman, Church of England Board for Social Responsibility),
Bishop's Croft,
Old Church Road,
Harborne,
Birmingham,
March 12.

Liver cancer risk

From Dr R. H. Taylor

Sir, Your item (March 5) on cancer in the vicinity of nuclear power stations leaves a number of things unsaid which cast a rather different light on the findings of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys report on regards Central Electricity Generating Board sites.

Careful scrutiny shows no indication of an abnormal pattern of leukaemia in the locations where CEB nuclear installations are in operation.

Secondly, although positive findings for liver cancer were reported around certain CEB sites in the 25-74 age group, the researchers suggested

... this may be indicative of some form of behaviour in the rural localities adjacent to these installations. This may warrant further field studies ... initially checking the validity of the results and then exploring some of the factors known to be associated with increased risk of liver cancer.

Science research in jeopardy

From Professor Martin Bobrow and others

Sir, We write as scientists who sit on grants committees at the Medical Research Council. One of our main tasks is to assess and award funding for scientific research, particularly in the universities, in relation to the biology of cells and their disorders.

Over the past few years, our task has become increasingly difficult as the budget within which we operate has become more and more constraining. We expect to distinguish between poor, good, and outstanding science, and to turn down applications of colleagues and friends. However, we now find that even after we have heavily pruned applications to the very minimum that would allow the work to be done, there is just not enough money to fund excellent science.

We are being forced to make judgements at such high levels of excellence that discrimination between who to fund and who not to fund becomes virtually impossible.

This difficult situation has now been made even worse since the Government has not yet given the research councils, unlike the universities, supplementation for the very welcome increase in salaries. We do not see how we can continue to make sensible decisions.

We also find it painful to tell applicants that their work is of the very highest standard but that they must wait four or five months before they will know if the grant will be funded, for we know that disorganization and demoralization cause this.

Yours etc,
MARTIN BOBROW (United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals),
D. G. HARNDEN (Director, Paterson Institute for Cancer Research, Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester),
J. C. METCALFE (Department of Biochemistry, Cambridge),
G. K. RADDA (Department of Biochemistry, Oxford),
KENNETH MURRAY (Department of Molecular Biology, Edinburgh),
ELIZABETH SIMPSON (Medical Research Council, Clinical Research Centre, Harrow, Middlesex),
R. N. T. WELLS (Bristol General Hospital),
LEWIS WOLPERT, Department of Anatomy and Biology as Applied to Medicine, Middlesex Hospital Medical School, Cleveland Street, W1,
March 13.

Nuclear testing

From the Principal of the United World College of the Atlantic

Sir, I, too, was in the Foreign Office Disarmament Department at the same time as Michael Cullis (March 6) but I am afraid he misses the point about a comprehensive test ban treaty.

It may be true, as he says, that a comprehensive test ban is irrelevant to arms control between the superpowers. But it is certainly not so in relation to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The weakness of the Non-Proliferation Treaty has always been that it restrains the non-nuclear weapon States which are parties to it from producing and testing nuclear weapons, but not those countries that already have them. This weakness is balanced by its political and moral effect and provides an excuse for a number of key States to refuse to sign. A comprehensive test ban would affect all parties equally and would remove that excuse.

In the real world the stalemate between the nuclear weapon States is dangerous but not disastrous. But if nuclear proliferation accelerated out of control the chances of survival would become almost nil.

A comprehensive test ban treaty which restrained proliferation could be the most effective arms-control measure of all.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW STUART, Principal,
United World College of the Atlantic,
St Donat's Castle,
Llantwit Major, South Glamorgan.

Traffic flow

From Ms Lynn Mallet

Sir, Apropos traffic flow in London (report, March 2, letter, March 9) it seems to have escaped the notice of your correspondents that a large proportion of the traffic clogging up the roads is seeking not somewhere to go, but somewhere to stay.

As it is too late to require builders of new blocks (as should have been done immediately post-war) to provide basement and ground-floor parking facilities in all their structures, it seems, alas, that it will for ever be far, far better to travel hopefully than to arrive.

Yours peripatetically,
LYNN MALLET,
25 St Mary's Grove, W4.

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 19 1881

Alexander II (1818-81) succeeded to the throne of Russia in 1855. For nearly 30 years he was the instigator of reform, his greatest achievement being the emancipation of the serfs in 1861. But the pace of change was too slow for some, and Alexander was killed by a bomb on March 13 while driving in St Petersburg.

THE LATE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA

(By Telegraph.)

(From our Correspondents.)

ST. PETERSBURG, March 18. The air of St. Petersburg is full of rumours of streets undermined and further plots. Half the stories, however, are the product of Russian imagination. The account of the explosive pills which were sent to his late Majesty a short time before his terrible assassination appears to be the only one of its kind to which any amount of belief may be accorded. In the case there really is sufficient testimony in its favour. A box of patent pills was sent to the late Czar, and specially recommended for their cure of asthma, from which Alexander II. suffered for a long time before his end. These pills were given to Professor Balkin to analyse, and in opening the box a slight detonation ensued, but owing to some disarrangement of the mechanism the intended explosion did not follow. With regard to the mines yet undiscovered, there is believed to be another preparation similar to that in the Garden-street tunnel under some other part of the route traversed by the deceased Emperor on Sunday afternoon. All the houses in that quarter are accordingly being diligently searched from top to bottom, but I have not yet heard that anything has been found. The determination which recent information proves, the Nihilists to have shown on Sunday in order to make sure of the Imperial victim has very naturally roused the police to strongly suspect that the whole of the plot has not yet been brought to light. One of the clever precautions taken by the assassins was the coating of the deadly pellets with something white, so that they might not be distinguished in the snow in case of their non-explosion or for other contingencies. About a couple of poods of pyroxyline appear to have composed the mine in Garden-street. The occupier of the premises and his female companion disappeared previous to the discovery, and have not yet been traced.

It is at present arranged, although the programme is, of course, subject to alterations, that the coronation of Alexander III. shall take place at Moscow on the expiration of the period of deep mourning, and the residence of the Imperial party in the ancient capital will then be prolonged until the end of the year. The Moscow possibilities of the present Czar are well known, and this favour proposed to be shown to Moscow will, no doubt, increase his popularity among the mass of the people.

It has given much satisfaction here to read in the circular addressed to foreign Powers that the Emperor Alexander III. will devote his efforts before everything else to the internal necessities of the Empire. At the same time it is thought that the announcement that the foreign policy of Russia will not suffer any interruption or change, although it is to be essentially pacific, will at once set at rest the speculations abroad on this head.

The refusal of the Polish delegates in the Austrian Reichsrath to adhere to the vote of condolence has drawn some anger from the pens of anti-Polish journalists, but in general the Press treats it as a mere drop in the ocean of sympathy and sorrow which the foreign nations have offered...

Oxford Chancellor

From the Reverend R. P. Stone

Sir, There will be many wishing to congratulate Mr Roy Jenkins on his election as Chancellor of Oxford University (report, March 16). However, there is one matter which must be casting a shadow over his pleasure in his victory — namely, that he was elected by a minority of the votes cast in a "first-past-the-post" contest; exactly the system which he considers so disastrously unsuitable for parliamentary elections.

Would it not be an honourable and striking gesture if, before his installation, Mr Jenkins resubmitted himself to the Oxford electorate under some system of proportional representation?

Yours faithfully,
PETER STONE,
15a Bishopwood Road, N6,
March 16.

In perpetuity?

From Mr Jeremy Humphries

Sir, Mr Ayles (March 16) asks how much longer he must wait before his 30-year-old premium bond wins his first prize. Unfortunately, Ernie has no memory. The 30-year-old bond has exactly the same prospects as a brand new one going into its first draw this morning.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. HUMPHRIES,
36 Penmanor, Finstall,
Bromsgrove, Worcestershire,
March 16.

From Miss Rebecca James

Sir, Perhaps Mr Ayles will be encouraged to hear that my mother despaired of Ernie too, but her premium bond did win £100 in the end — a couple of months after she died.

Yours faithfully,
REBECCA JAMES,
7 Denewood, The Grove,
Epsom, Surrey,
March 16.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY

* Seats available
* Returns only

THEATRE LONDON

* **FASCINATING AIDA:** The witty, sexy, subversive threewoman, spanning and linking about a century of Aida. Picaresque Theatre, Oldham Street, London W1 (01-437 4506). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Tues 8.10-10.30pm, Wed-Sat 8.10-11.40pm, Sun 8.10-10.30pm, extended until March 21.

* **THE EMPEROR:** The last days of Heile Selassie, played on the stage by Michael Hastings and Jonathan Miller. Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, London SW1 (01-730 2554). Tube: Sloane Square. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 4pm, April 11.

* **MARCH OF THE FALSETTOS:** Previews of the zippy, witty musical by William Finn concerning the home life of New York beatniks. Picaresque Theatre, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3878). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Tues 8.10-10.30pm, Wed-Sat 8.10-11.40pm, Sun 8.10-10.30pm, extended until March 21.

* **NO WORRIES:** Spelt-binding musical play for young people about a girl, daughter of an Australian sheep farmer, forced to move to the city. Last week, Young Vic Theatre, 65 The Cut, London SE1 (01-928 6383). Tube: Waterloo. Wed 10.30pm, Thurs-Sat 8.10pm and 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 6.45pm and 9.30-10.45pm, Sun 10.45pm, extended until March 21.

* **NUNSENSE:** Previews of award-winning Off-Broadway musical set in a convent too poor to bury all 45 of its nuns possessed by vichysseans. Honor Blackman sets about raising the dead. Fortune Theatre, Russell Street, London WC2 (01-836 2238). Tube: Covent Garden. Previews Mon-Fri 8.10-10.30pm, Sat 8.10-11.40pm, Sun 2.30pm, 6.45pm and 9.30-10.45pm, Sun 10.45pm, extended until March 21.

* **SIEGFRIED SASSOON:** Peter Brook uses the poet's own words to tell his story: a limited viewpoint but still effective. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 2262/01-434 3586). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Tues-Sat 8.10pm, mainline Wed 8.30pm, Sun 5.7pm, Sun 8.30pm, Sun 10.30pm, extended until March 21.

* **SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR:** Pirandello's most famous play: powerful mix of metaphysics and theatricality. National Theatre (Dolphin), South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 2232). Tube: Waterloo. Mon-Fri 7.15-8.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, extended until March 21.

* **LONG RUNNERS:** The Bookmakers of Murder: Mayfair Theatre (01-629 3036). * **Casey:** New London Theatre (01-405 0072, 01-404 4078). * **Casey:** Prince Edward Theatre (01-734 8951). * **42nd Street:** Drury Lane Theatre (01-836 8186/01-01-240 9067/01-01-240 9067). * **My Darling Clementine:** Theatre (01-636 7611/7358 and 01-240 7613/4). * **La Marseillaise:** Palace Theatre (01-437 2262).

BEST SELLING BOOKS

Best selling books for the week ending March 14

FICTION

1 The Enigma of Arrival, V. S. Naipaul	Viking	£10.95
2 No Enemy But Time, Evelyn Anthony	Hutchinson	£10.95
3 The Paradise of the Fathers, C. Cookson	Heinemann	£10.95
4 The Counterfeit, Philip Roth	Cape	£10.95
5 The Garden of Eden, Ernest Hemingway	Hamilton	£ 9.95

NON-FICTION

1 Where There's a Will, Michael Heseltine	Hutchinson	£12.95
2 Michelin Red Guide to France 1987	Michelin	£ 8.25
3 Rab: The Life of R. A. Butler, Anthony Howard	Cape	£15.00
4 Little Wilson and Big God, A. Burgess	Heinemann	£12.95
5 Baldwin, Roy Jenkins	Collins	£12.95

PAPERBACKS

1 The Bourne Supremacy, Robert Ludlum	Grafton	£ 3.95
2 The Bourne Identity, Robert Ludlum	Grafton	£ 3.95
3 The Bourne Legacy, Robert Ludlum	Grafton	£ 3.95
4 The Bourne Affair, Robert Ludlum	Grafton	£ 3.95
5 The Bourne Project, Robert Ludlum	Grafton	£ 3.95
6 The Bourne Conspiracy, Robert Ludlum	Grafton	£ 3.95
7 The Bourne Identity, Robert Ludlum	Grafton	£ 3.95
8 The Bourne Supremacy, Robert Ludlum	Grafton	£ 3.95
9 The Bourne Identity, Robert Ludlum	Grafton	£ 3.95
10 The Bourne Supremacy, Robert Ludlum	Grafton	£ 3.95

Source: Hatchards, 187 Piccadilly, London W1

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS

BARBERSHALL, LONDON 605 8755/6338

1. The Enigma of Arrival, V. S. Naipaul

2. No Enemy But Time, Evelyn Anthony

3. The Paradise of the Fathers, C. Cookson

4. The Counterfeit, Philip Roth

5. The Garden of Eden, Ernest Hemingway

6. The Bourne Supremacy, Robert Ludlum

7. The Bourne Identity, Robert Ludlum

8. The Bourne Legacy, Robert Ludlum

9. The Bourne Affair, Robert Ludlum

10. The Bourne Project, Robert Ludlum

11. The Bourne Conspiracy, Robert Ludlum

12. The Bourne Identity, Robert Ludlum

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28. The Bourne Identity, Robert Ludlum

29. The Bourne Supremacy, Robert Ludlum

30. The Bourne Identity, Robert Ludlum

FILMS

* Also on national television

* Advance booking possible

* Children of a Lesser God (15)

* The Color of Money (15)

* The Untouchables (15)

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Garry Murray

Making a change from the on-going parade of old American musicals hauled back from the past, *March of the Falsettos* was born in the '80s, though it has taken six years to make it here from New York, by way of a successful run at the Lyric Theatre, Manchester. Composer and lyricist William Finn calls it a passionate work about being scared to death of love, and if this sounds an awesome theme the result is zippy, unique and exhilarating. There is no dancing and no dialogue, but into its compact playing-time (one and a quarter hours) are packed nineteen songs, excluding reprises. The plot's variation on the old routine of boy leaves girl for other girl comes early when husband leaves wife and son to live with male lover. Wife starts affair with husband's psychiatrist and the story unfolds on from there. Marvellously witty and sung with such clarity, the wit can be relaxed at first hearing. All five performers are singers with a string of shows behind them, and even Damien Walker, only twelve years-old, has appeared in five musicals. Previewing now at the Albery Theatre, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3878). Mon to Thurs, 8.10-10.30pm, Fri and Sat, 7.30-8.45pm and 9.30-10.45pm, £3-10.50. Opens March 24.

Jeremy Kingston

EVENING

* **MACONCHY'S BOOTH:** Elisabeth Macconchy's birthday is celebrated by various artists performing a number of her compositions, including *Sun, Moon and Stars*, *Fantasia*, *Quartetto Corale*, *Three Songs*, and *String Quartet No. 11*. Waverley Arts Centre, 29 Waverley Square, London SW1 (01-491 8111), 5-8.15pm, £5.

* **FAURE/WALTON:** The Royal Choral Society and BBC Concert Orchestra perform a selection of works by Maurice Strakosck, including *Sun, Moon and Stars*, *Fantasia*, *Quartetto Corale*, *Three Songs*, and *String Quartet No. 11*. Waverley Arts Centre, 29 Waverley Square, London SW1 (01-491 8111), 5-8.15pm, £5.

* **SEAMAN/RNO:** Christopher Seaman conducts the Scottish National Orchestra in Ravel's *Alborada del gracioso* and César Franck's *Symphony*. Paul and Maureen Torrie (soprano) sing in *Viva la Patrie* and *Les Champs-Élysées*. Royal Albert Hall, London WC2 (01-262 8800), 7.30-9.30pm, £2-25.

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THE ARTS

Agony aunts

Should Nancy Reagan ever look at herself in a fairground Hall of Mirrors she'd find both Dr Ruth Westheimer and Helen Gurley Brown staring back at her, just as they appeared on *Ask Dr Ruth* (Channel 4). Whether compressed into the squat doctor, or stretched into the android Gurley Brown, they were similarly uncanny distortions of that walking beige hair-do.

Since the only troubles worth having were ones that could be resolved in under 45 seconds, this show was less concerned with solving anybody's problems than it was with providing a sandwich board for the consultants' degma. Gurley Brown, editor of *American Cosmopolitan*, set

TELEVISION

the pace of the debate on women and infidelity: "I don't see how a single girl can survive without an occasional married man to fill in the gaps and to save off hunger during the lean times," she proclaimed.

Neither the callers nor the studio audience appeared to derive much comfort from that declaration, but Dr Ruth was obviously enjoying herself hugely. And, in the end, that really seemed to be all that mattered.

"It's odd that throughout my life there has been this desire to find out the limitations in me," said Rory McCarthy, one of two clean-cut stockbroking parachutists in *QED: The World's Longest Drop* (BBC1). He had countered near-death on Mont Blanc with a promise to do something more spectacular the next time — an attempt to beat the free-fall record (six miles before opening the parachutes, and defying odds on frozen release cables, oxygen failure, and blacked-out). It was that desire which, because steadily less comprehensible, and ultimately intriguing.

Alexandra Shulman

ROCK

Kodo Sadler's Wells

Kodo is an 11-piece Japanese percussion company, and for 15 years the players have applied themselves with single-minded zeal to the art of banging drums — called *myo-daiko* — in a largely successful effort to create and export new compositions utilizing the ancient instruments and folklore of their culture.

Judging by the lean athleticism of their performance, their skill depends on less on rigorous physical discipline than it does on their ability to keep time. For the finale, two of the troop, clad in loincloths and each wielding a hefty pair of batons, launched what may best be described as an all-out assault on either end of a huge drum at least 4ft in diameter, and weighing approximately 900lb.

Prior to this exhibition there were displays of ensemble playing on more modestly sized instruments that produced interlocking rhythmic crescendos. The *myo-daiko* sound roughly like tightly-tuned, undamped toms, but because of their size and weight they carry a deeper, more rounded resonance. Much of the material, like the opening piece "Miyake", proceeded from the unison playing of expertly co-ordinated single-stroke rolls embellished by individual players improvising above the rhythm, to produce a blood-curdling symphony of thundering sound.

In marked contrast, a strung zither-like instrument called a *koto* and a pair of steel drums were used on "Hae", to create a beautiful melancholy tune that sounded like a Japanese equivalent of the blues. The odd bits of dance and mime that fleshed out the performance were less compelling.

David Sinclair

Kean edge to a triumph

Diane Hill, in Paris, watches film star Jean-Paul Belmondo tackle Sartre on stage — and win

THEATRE

Kean, on Désordre et Génie

Théâtre Marigny, Paris

So often, the higher the wave of super-hype that precedes a play, the lower the chances that you are in for an evening which fully justifies the surfeit of adjectives. *Kean*, directed by Robert Hossein and starring (here the word is not abused) Jean-Paul Belmondo, is a rare exception.

This big-budget treatment of Alexandre Dumas's play about the English tragedian, as reworked by Jean-Paul Sartre under the full title of *Kean, ou Désordre et génie*, is, indeed, hype-worthy.

Pierre Simonini's five décorators are lavish. Sylvie Poulet's beautiful period costumes are so completely in accordance with the design they are a joy. Hossein's direction is a carefully thought-out work of dramatic art. And, as Kean, Belmondo remains one of France's biggest box-office draws. For, despite the excellence of the 35-strong cast, it is upon his well-developed shoulders that the success of



Belmondo, bold and brilliant: after 27 years in cinema, the veteran French actor returns to his classical theatrical roots

this four-hour epic finally comes to rest.

After 27 years of cinema scenarios of crime and violence, the crumpled-faced Belmondo returns to his original classical theatrical roots — among them two productions at the Comédie Française. It is as if he has never been away. His sense of the theatre is impeccable, and he articulates Sartre's not always easy dialogue with a power and a passion that ricochet around the auditorium.

Known for refusing to use a stuntman for any of his tough-guy film exploits, he arrives on stage like a 19th century Tarzan from a box in the circle. When he tumbles down a flight of stairs there is no faking the fall.

Just as Dumas wrote *Kean* in 1836 for Frédéric Le-maire, and more than a century later (1954) Sartre remodelled the work for the late Pierre Brasseur — both *sacres* *monstres* of their day — Hossein recreates the role of Kean for Belmondo. Sartre

subdued the stylized melodramatic spirit of Dumas in favour of a more psychological exploration of Kean's character, laced with philosophical reflections on the role of an actor in society.

Hossein, while remaining true to Sartre's text, brings to the surface Kean's swash-buckling nature, thus lightening the often heavy text with flamboyant action and visual excitement. This fiery treatment also enables Belmondo

to ignite Sartre's bursts of verbal fireworks — moments which could so easily have been dramatic dampeners, because of their erudite intentions.

Hossein's use of four named interludes is a touch of near genius, designed to occupy the audience between the miraculously silent scene changes. Two virtually unknown young mimes, Stephen James Back and Yvan Ormond, act out Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* with such poignancy and talent that, at the final curtain call, they deservedly received tumultuous applause.

The events of the play owe more to Dumas's imagination than to reality, but they do give rise to some plum second

roles. Every Frenchman's idea of the perfect Englishman, Pierre Vernier gives a polished performance as a roguish Prince of Wales.

Sabine Haudepain is a suitably ingenuous Anna Damby, whose sights are set on becoming Kean's Desdemona, both on and off the stage. As the Countess Elena — the unobtainable object of Kean's affections — Béatrice Agenin nicely imbues the role with an aristocratic capriciousness. There is an amusing resigned irony, tinged with respect and affection, in Michel Beaugue's portrayal of Salomon, Kean's faithful retainer.

● *Kean* runs until the end of June. There is the possibility of a revival in the autumn.

The bodies in question

John Russell Taylor dissects a show dedicated to the artist's changing view of human anatomy

GALLERY

Bodylines National Gallery

The great advantage of having at your disposal a pool of reference like the National Gallery's permanent collection is that you can constantly recycle it, selecting from it now this way, now that, in such a fashion that you illuminate not only the pictures included, but also some other, more general (or more specific) theme.

The personal selections we have had in the last few years from a variety of living British artists are one way of doing it. The "Acquisition in Focus" series is another. And the new show, *Bodylines: The Human Figure in Art* (until May 17) is a third, thematic approach which one can imagine being endlessly extended.

The show is mounted by the Education Department, and catalogued by two members of the department, Felicity Woolf and Michael Cassin.

But any unfortunate associations of dryness and stuffiness which might cling to the very idea of education in a gallery context can immediately be dismissed. The show is smallish, concentrated, and wholly fascinating.

It follows the artist's idea and treatment of the human body in painting, from medieval convention through Renaissance reference to classical antiquities and on to the prevalence of life studies in the 18th and 19th centuries.

It concludes with a Degas pastel nude which, the devisers suggest, may bring a new element into play, owing perhaps to Degas' studies of Old Master technique and academic training than to the then-relatively new invention of photography.

All of the paintings, from the 13th century Master of San Francesco to the end of the nineteenth century, come from the National Gallery's own collection. But they are given a context by a group of sculptures, classical or contemporary, displayed with the paintings, and a selection of drawings, and



Nineteenth-century masculinity: a male nude ascribed to the French artist Jean-Louis-Antoine Théodore Géricault (1791-1824), one of the lesser-known works in the *Bodylines* show

prints borrowed from other public collections in London, Oxford and Edinburgh.

It is useful, thus, to be able to compare immediately Cima's elegant, untroubled *Saint Sebastian* with the closely contemporary polychromed wood sculpture from the school of Arn von Kalkar (so much more expressive of suffering), or

Correggio's *Venus in the School of Love* with a classical sculpture of *Venus* adopting the same posture.

Later, and more unexpected, an illuminating comparison is suggested between Reynolds's *General Sir Banastre Tarleton* and a classical statue of *Cincinnatus* photographed from a version in the Louvre. From this, or

something like it, Reynolds adopted his young soldier's heroic pose.

It is also helpful to have artists' gradually evolving consciousness of anatomy chronicled by a couple of Leonardo's anatomical drawings and a Canini drawing of a 17th century life class, as well as a Rowlandson print of a life class as conducted at the Royal Academy.

The show also brings together, for the first time in many years (maybe ever) the National Gallery's Pergino painting of *Tobias and the Angel* and the Ashmolean's silverpoint study for the painting.

This allows us to see how the artist rethought his figures from the fairly modish garments of the time — in which he originally drew them — and note how he finally decided to use in the painting his second thought, independently noted, of just how they should hold hands.

But the key to the effect of the show is its invitation to look again, in a new light, at about 20 of the Gallery's possessions. Some are well-known (like the Caravaggio *Boy Bitten by a Lizard* or the Rembrandt *Woman Bathing in a Stream*), some much less familiar, like the Johann Liss *Judith in the Tent of Holofernes* or the academic study, remarkably finely handled, of a muscular male nude ascribed to Géricault.

Both of these certainly deserve to be closely examined for themselves, the catalogue points out, for instance, how the rather complicated pose of the Judith, holding the head away from us (it is the moment immediately after decapitation) and looking back over her shoulder with a suspiciously satisfied expression, all serves to show off Liss's virtuoso grasp of anatomy in action.

By being directed to concentrate on the handling of the human figure we find ourselves observing extra subtleties or hitherto unrecognized strengths in even the most hackneyed works, and go out ready to see other parts of the collection with a newly enlivened eye.

OPERA

Macbeth Victoria Hall, Cromarty

The lashing of some vicious squalls against the windows of a village hall in Cromarty certainly added an atmospheric frisson to Scottish Opera's Go-Round's pocket-sized production of Verdi's *Macbeth* on Tuesday night.

For, while Richard Jones's production may be small enough to put in the back of a post office van and tour around the Scottish highlands and islands, it lacks for nothing in dramatic punch.

With his translator, Andrew Porter — the piece is given in English, including large chunks of Shakespeare — Jones has slimmed down Verdi to just seven principals and a boy. What we lose in grandeur is amply compensated for by immediacy and clarity in the story-telling and wit and imagination in the staging.

The entrance and subsequent murder of Duncan, played in dumbshow by a white-masked little boy, is a case in point. The table for the feast, surrounded on three sides by some of the movable stage flats which constitute the set, becomes the bed for the killing and at the same time the altar for the sacrifice. The effect is to make flesh the whole subtext — the innocent lamb led to the slaughter, the baseness of Macbeth's holier-than-thou betrayal. But having said that, the set as a whole (designed by Nigel Lowery) is simply ghastly — painted a hideous orange, for no apparent reason, and dreadfully flimsy.

Musically, however, the evening is an almost total winner. All the voices were in fine form. The Macbeths' brief duet (Omar Elrahman and Mary Lloyd-Davies) as they swear vengeance on Macduff was genuinely thrilling. Elrahman has the advantage of a naturally hunted look, even in repose, and I also liked David Marsh's Banquo. His rich bass and imposing stature made you feel that Scotland would be better off all round with his progeny on the throne, whatever Macbeth got up to.

Robert Dawson Scott

The Greeks had a word for it

CONCERTS

Messiaen Festival Royal Academy of Music

The huge tricolour draped over the Duke's Hall balcony was not really necessary, because from the stage came a sound so unique to one composer that it proclaimed its nationality and epoch more clearly than any placard could. The calls of a dozen French songbirds were being played simultaneously by 18 solo strings in a polyphony as dense, exotic and seemingly endless as a tropical jungle.

This was the celebrated "Épique" movement of *Chronochromie*, the massive orchestral score written in 1960, and the performance of *Chronochromie* was the first major event in the Royal Academy of Music's current Messiaen Festival.

The festival runs until Sunday, touching on every aspect of the RAM's activities — from organ-playing (naturally) and song recitals to vast corporate efforts like this concert. It involves a large percentage of the student body, and has the ultimate stimulus — the presence of the 78-year-old Olivier Messiaen himself — to inspire them through the wide-ranging programmes. Moreover this concert, in which two RAM orchestras amalgamated under Nicholas Cleobury's unfailingly clear direction, raised high expectations of the overall standard.

The mounting of *Chronochromie* was particularly impressive, because the work marks one extreme in Messiaen's output. Organized according to a series of ingenious mathematical permutations, it rigorously links a spectacular mesh of wild rhythms to "colouristic" elements like orchestration and, of course, birdsong (hence the title, a Greek pun: "colour of time").

But what strikes the listener is the overwhelming beauty of the quasi-gamelan washes from tuned percussion (some superb playing here) and the sheer impact of Messiaen's block chords: thick, harmonic wedges, characteristically orchestrated with crushing swiftness, and often moving at dazzling pace.

The lines must be wretchedly awkward to play and to place; nevertheless, this was a performance of much cohesion and considerable passion. So far as one could judge details, they seemed accurate to a degree which attested patient preparation in sectional rehearsals. There was too much to admire, too, about Cleobury's exuberant treatment of the *Trois Petites Liturgies de la Présence Divine*, where Tristan Murail and Andrew West were stylish soloists (on oboes, martenot and piano respectively) and where the RAM Ladies' Choir produced some appropriately sensuous tone for Messiaen's mystic expressions of religious ecstasy, alternately erotic and jolly.

Richard Morrison

Stepping lively

Philharmonia/Sinopoli Festival Hall

Giuseppe Sinopoli's reputation with Elgar has certainly gone before him: last time they met at the Festival Hall, the air was thick with controversy. Too much circumstance, it was said, too little poise: one listener would find regenerative vigour, another would hear only perversity.

This time it was the Second Symphony, and I found Sinopoli's a bracing, almost entirely convincing approach. His way is characteristically to look at a score through opera-glasses rather than field-glasses; but this time his often near-obsessive attention to detail did not obscure the longer perspective.

Not that it, until the last movement, where his determination to work on the music's fever and fret by making the most of rhythmic dislocation did mute the majesty which Elgar prescribed for the symphony's close.

Hilary Finch

Korea moves

LSO/Whun Chung Barbican

Choosing not to avail himself of any printed score to control his singers and orchestra, Myung Whun Chung missed not a Rossinian point in his conducting of a passionately felt *Shabaz Mater* with the London Symphony Orchestra.

His four impressive soloists — Cynthia Haymon, Lucia Valentini-Terrani, Keith Lewis and Willard White — each reflected utterly differing approaches to the technique and style of singing Rossini, rather than as a unified quartet. Yet each had something to admire as well as blending tonally together.

The conductor entrusted "Quando Corpus Moritur" to the Pro Musica Chorus instead of the solo voices, and was rewarded for it by un-

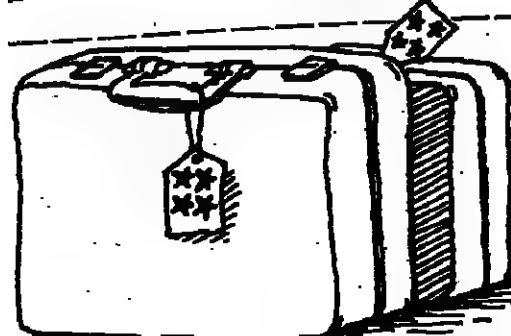
accompanied choral singing of uncommon assurance and balance of tone here and in the earlier "Eja Mater" movement.

In the orchestral numbers the playing benefited from a skilful moulding of rhythm and sonority. If it was not quite the indestructible tenderness so admired by Heine, the music's spirit glowed with a fervent vigour and character.

A change of soloist brought another Korean, Kun Woo Paik, to give a suitably glittery and buoyant account of Ravel's *G major Piano Concerto*, but with a quietly poetic central movement to contrast with the surrounding exuberance. The orchestra, however, seemed disinclined to provide the necessary rhythmic flexibility, without which the music's sharp sophistication of character can seem to be mere contrivance.

Noël Goodwin

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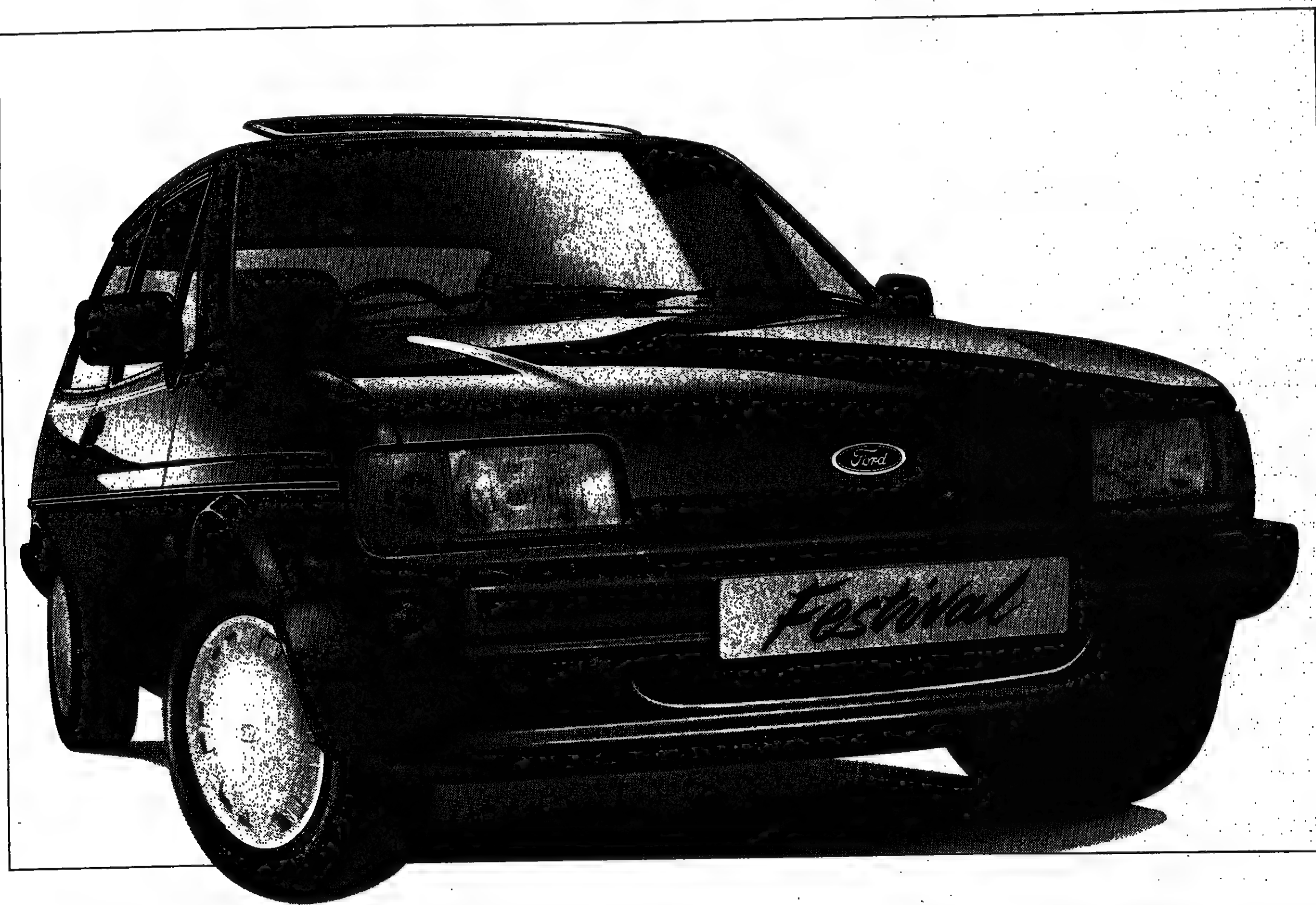


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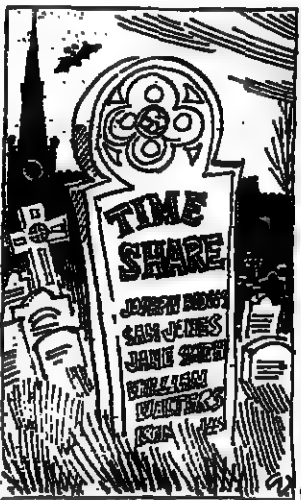
Brian

STOCK MARKET

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Channel Island life

Some curious last minute machinations have been going on between the shareholders of Marketing and Acquisition Consultants — the Jersey nominee company to which the old Guinness team paid £5.2 million. Last month — just before the Royal Court in Jersey ordered the company to say who now had the loot — two-thirds of the shares changed hands. One-third went to European Trust Co, Isle of Man, while the other went to the Swiss-sounding Leyson Trustees Ltd. Michael Dee, managing director of M & A Consultants, tells me that the move was "a safeguard in case Guinness tried to sue me personally — even though I don't think it is very likely." After a traumatic few months, he adds, optimistically, "I hope I can fade from the limelight now."



Bench mark

It could only happen in America. Herbert Marant has been applied to the US Securities Exchange Commission for a licence to run an investment counselling business from his Colorado prison cell. Marant, a former businessman serving life for organizing the contract killing of his ex-wife in 1981, has had his application refused — but not, it would seem, without some soul-searching deliberation. "While not unkind of his desire to build a future for himself while still in prison," says the SEC, "the major concern is whether he can be trusted to adhere to the high standard of conduct required to be an investment adviser."

Greedy Nigel

A reduction in basic rate income tax to 27 per cent would still have been too much for eighteenth century naval surgeon John Knyveton. In his diary for January 12, 1795, he wrote: "The rapacity and greed of the Government goes beyond all limits. It is now actually proposing to place a tax on income. Those with £100 to £105 a year to pay a 40th part and beyond £200 a tenth. It is a vile, Jacobin trumpery. Jack-in-the-box impudence. Is a true Briton to have no privacy? Are the fruits of his labour and toil to be picked over farthing by farthing by pimply minions of bureaucracy?"

Could it be that the Stock Exchange is a stingy payer? Only a week after long-serving press officer Luke Glass left for a similar job with BOC, Lynton Jones, the head of public affairs at the Stock Exchange, has handed in his notice. He is joining the US securities body NASD — the National Association of Securities Dealers — as its European executive dealer, based in London. "Of course I am going for more money," he says. "You wouldn't expect me to leave for less."

Crystal gazing

Waterford, the Irish glass-to-Wedgwood china group, has won a £1 million order to supply a palace in the Middle Eastern state of Qatar with no less than 38 lead crystal chandeliers and a collection of matching wall lamps. It hopes to now win an additional £300,000 contract with the same palace for a 300 place porcelain dinner service. But when it comes to giving away its wares for free, the company is almost as generous. It gave a magnificent hand-painted dinner service, worth £10,000, to the Prince and Princess of Wales and, more recently, a model glass replica of the Statue of Liberty to President Reagan and a glass tennis racket to Boris Becker. The latter two were the work of the company's master craftsman, a Czech by the name of Miroslav Havel, who moved to Waterford after the war. The locals find his name so unpronounceable that they call him Paddy for short. And, according to local folklore, he spent two years teaching Waterford children geometry before he could even speak English.

Carol Leonard

Drawing a new baseline for fiscal policy realism

Disappointing on the reform, the Chancellor's Budget on Tuesday nevertheless contained the most important developments in fiscal and monetary policy since the Government's medium-term financial strategy was born seven years ago.

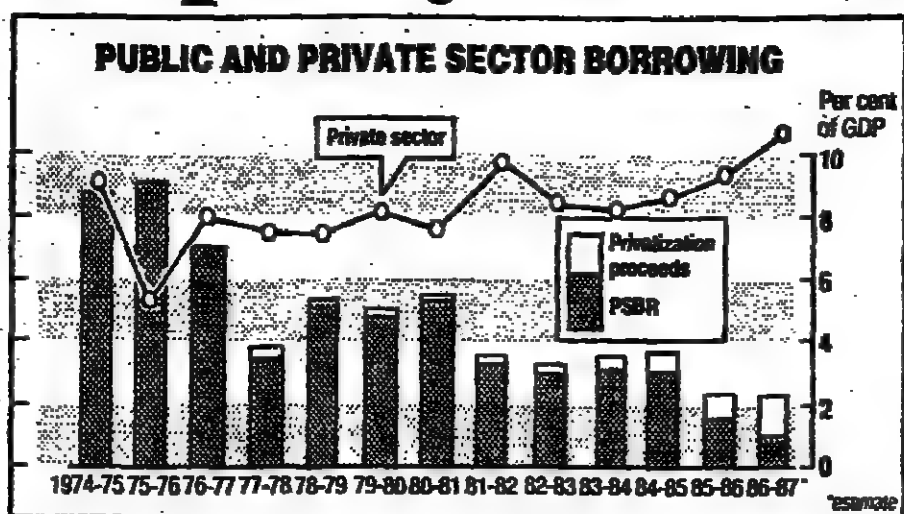
Mr Lawson revealed both a defeat and a triumph. For the coming financial year, the Government has finally given up the struggle of setting targets for its favoured measure of broad money, sterling M3. There was no great surprise, and the Budget Red Book contained the expected ritual words that "the rate of growth in broad money cannot be ignored, and the Government will continue to take it into account in assessing monetary conditions".

Nevertheless, this marks the end of a lengthy experiment in monetary targets dating back to the time when Mr Denis Healey first introduced targets for the money supply. Important information about what the Government expects the trend to be in the growth of broad money will be lost.

On fiscal policy, too, we have reached the end of a chapter. But the story here is a much happier one.

A crucial element of the MTFPS from the beginning has been a steady reduction in government borrowing. On Tuesday, the Chancellor told us that this process to be complete. At 1 per cent of GDP, or £3.9 billion for 1987-88, the public sector borrowing requirement was low enough and the Government would not attempt to cut it further.

This is important from several points of view. For fiscal expansionists who have always opposed the reduction in borrowing — most recently in a letter to the *Financial Times* from five former government chief economic



advisers — it at least provides a solid floor from which they can go on arguing for refutation.

For tax-cutters it means that, other things being equal, any scope for fiscal adjustment in the years to come can be applied to reducing the burden of taxation. And for those favouring a balanced budget it means the end of any hopes they may have had that this Government's gradual reduction in the PSBR would finally reach zero.

Some of the thinking behind the choice of 1 per cent of GDP as the final resting place of the PSBR was spelt out in Mr Lawson's speech to the Lombard Association last April.

"There is, of course, no scientific formula for determining the 'right' size of the PSBR," Mr Lawson said. "But in practice there are very real constraints on how much it is prudent to borrow. In the first place, over the medium and longer term, it is clearly important that the amount of public debt, and the burden this imposes, should not rise as a proportion of the economy as a whole."

At a level of 1 per cent of GDP, the PSBR would not add to the total stock of public

debt in relation to the size of the economy even at zero inflation. Assuming a reasonable rate of growth in GDP, the ratio of debt to GDP would diminish. Inflation devalues the stock of public debt in real terms, making it easier to run a high PSBR and still keep the debt/GDP ratio in bounds, so it is important in setting the PSBR target to assume that the Government achieves its ultimate aim for inflation.

If a figure it works out roughly like this: if nominal GDP is about £400 billion and the economy is growing at 2½ per cent, then, with zero inflation, GDP will be £410 billion in a year's time. The stock of public debt is about 45 per cent of GDP, or £180 billion.

So PSBR could rise by 45 per cent of £10 billion, or £4.5 billion. This is rather more than the level of £3.9 billion at which next year's PSBR is actually set.

The second important condition set by Mr Lawson in his Lombard speech was that it should be possible to finance the PSBR comfortably in a non-inflationary way. Present circumstances suggest that

this should present no problem.

The effect of the fall in public-sector demands for credit is illustrated in the diagram derived from the Red Book. Falling public-sector borrowing has provided greater scope for private-sector borrowers to tap the markets. The result is what the Chancellor describes as "crowding in" — in other words, the reverse of the situation during the 1970s when the demands of the Government tended to crowd out private-sector borrowers.

The 1 per cent floor is for the PSBR and does not take into account financing available from privatization proceeds. When privatization proceeds are added back, the call on the markets is more than double that from the PSBR alone. This is a better measure of the fiscal stance in any one year than the PSBR alone.

But privatization proceeds will gradually fall as the last sticks of furniture are sold off. Mr Lawson confirmed yesterday that proceeds would not rise above £5 billion a year in future.

The history of the scope for tax cuts in this year's Budget should serve as a reminder that the numbers in the MTFPS are only aspirations. It emerged yesterday that the Treasury forecasters were expecting the PSBR to turn out above target this year as late as the Autumn Statement in November. Instead it is now expected to come in £3 billion below target.

While castigating the Budget in public, the Labour party, too, may in private applaud the Chancellor's decision to opt for caution.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

TEMPUS

United Biscuits strong but US cookie crumbles

Disappointment with United Biscuits' performance in the United States is the most likely reason for the market's failure to respond positively to what are excellent results.

After all not many companies in mature markets can show such consistent growth in profits and earnings as UB.

Gradually improving market share and the introduction of new brands have been important in UB's 1986 performance. But of even greater significance in producing last year's 23 per cent rise in pretax profits to £125.2 million on virtually static turnover have been steady gains in efficiency.

Half of the profit rise was due to widening margins on sales. The trading margin rose from 6.4 per cent in 1985 to 7.1 per cent in 1986 due to productivity gains.

The other half was the result of lower interest charges as gearing dropped from 33 per cent to 21 per cent, despite capital expenditure of £125 million. And the company was able to achieve a 22 per cent return on capital employed compared with only 19 per cent in 1985, while return on equity rose 29 per cent.

In the US, Keebler has been fighting its corner in the so-called "cookie war" against rivals Nabisco and Procter and Gamble. Last year it managed just 13 per cent growth in profits in dollar terms, which translated into 2.5 per cent in sterling terms.

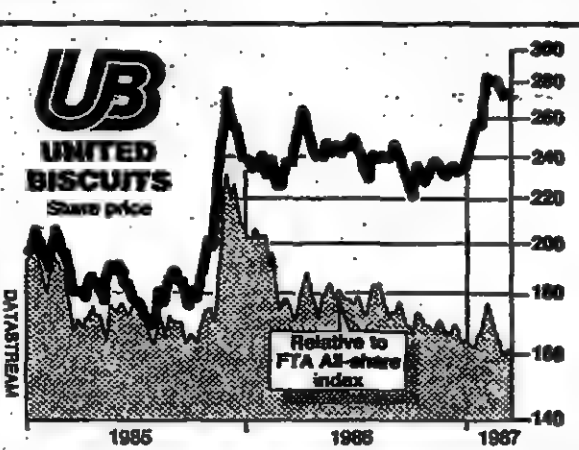
Future growth is likely to come from growth in crisps, nuts and savory snacks, especially in Europe and the US. The restaurant business, Wimpy and Pizzaland, should show steady growth also.

Food specialist Robert Brand at Wood Mackenzie, the stockbroker, believes UB should make £142 million pretax next year. For once, all of this improvement will come through to earnings per share putting the shares on an undemanding prospective multiple of not quite 12.

Remarkably, there has been very little takeover talk since Imperial went to Hanson. Perhaps the predators see little extra juice to come from an orange which is already being squeezed hard by its own management.

Turner & Newall

Turner & Newall has been issuing so much paper since last May that it almost rivals confetti at a wedding. First it was the May one-for-four rights issue. Then it was shares for the AE acquisition. Now it is another rights issue to take the issued capital to 256 million shares.



But the net effect of raising £71.7 million will be an immediate reduction in gearing from 59 per cent — an uncomfortably high level reached because of the AE fight — to the 40 per cent mark, and it will give Turner fresh room to move on investment and acquisitions.

Now that the group has won the battle for AE, it is a matter of waiting for the benefits to flow through. Whatever the uncertain outlook for the British car industry, and the threat of possible Japanese component manufacturing operations in the United Kingdom, AE should be good for £43 million at the trading level in 1987, which will swell the enlarged Turner group to fresh heights.

The outcome for the year ended December, with AE taken in for only three weeks, was a group pretax profit of £44.7 million against £39.6 million, with all divisions, except the Zimbabwe mines, moving ahead. There was a net credit from insurers of £1.8 million from asbestos-related claims (£2.3 million previously), and the return on capital employed improved from 17.9 per cent to 20 per cent.

One disappointment was the dip in net earnings a share because of the higher capital to be served, but dividends rose, and should rise again this year and next, and the financial calculations of the latest rights issue suggest there will be no earnings dilution in 1987. Interest savings should add £6 million to profits, and the conservative estimate of this year's profits is £78.5 million, with £90.7 million in sight for 1988.

Once AE is fully digested, Turner must be expected to pay increased attention to the United States. Meanwhile, the United Kingdom contribution to profits accounts for 48 per cent of the operating, cake, and given lower interest rates the order book looks good.

The shares were 11p easier at 230p on results, where they offer a prospective price earnings ratio of 9.8 on a fully diluted basis and a prospective yield of 5.1 per cent. Those with patience should

yet find Turner & Newall a rewarding hold.

News Corp

The recent issue of News International's special dividend shares represents a "window of investment opportunity", according to a new report on Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation published by Kleinwort Greaveson, the stockbroker. Kleinwort's media analyst, Luke Johnson, believes that each special dividend share, representing four News Corporation ordinary shares, should stand at a 20 per cent discount to the ordinary shares, rather than the 44 per cent discount they stand on at present.

Mr Johnson's enthusiasm extends to News Corporation as a whole, which he describes as "the most dynamic media enterprise in the world". Such high rates of growth cannot be achieved without borrowing and Mr Johnson calculates that gearing is a staggering 258 per cent. "However, virtually none of the debt is secured," he says.

For the year to June 30, 1987, he is forecasting net income of Aus\$380 million (£161 million) to give earnings per share of Aus\$1.35. At the current share price of Aus\$22.70, the prospective multiple is just under 17.

Rivkin-James Capel, the Australian arm of the stockbroker James Capel, agrees. Its Australian analyst, Rod Clarkson, is less ambitious for this year's earnings. He is forecasting Aus\$1.17, implying a prospective multiple of 19. "But this is not very expensive for media stocks in the US, or anywhere else these days," he says.

But he is looking for much faster growth than Kleinwort, and both brokers agree that net income in 1989 will approach Aus\$600 million, when the multiple will fall to 12.3.

He identifies News Corporation as a company which has successfully made the transition from being an upstart local Australian stock into a highly-rated multi-media, multinational corporation.

COMMENT Kenneth Fieel

Morgan Grenfell ready for the next round

Morgan Grenfell yesterday made a passable impression of a bank picking itself up off the floor. A few weeks ago, reeling from its involvement with Guinness, this vigorous contender for the merchant banking crown, seemed unlikely to bear the count. But having soaked up heavy punishment, Morgan's eyes have cleared, the legs look stronger and it has a better idea where its corner is.

The bank's failure to meet original profit expectations stems directly from its troubles. Had there been no Department of Trade investigation it would not have shown a huge paper loss on its 7 million Guinness shares. Now the shares have risen again, more or less wiping out the loss, and they may well show a profit within weeks.

The Catto Committee has handed in its report on Morgan's management structure to the Bank of England and crucial management changes have been made. Younger men now have more say, management reporting systems have been tightened up and the "star system" — now discredited but until the gift was blown the golden source of the bank's teeming profits and its envied status in the City — appears to have been abandoned.

There is still an air of caution about the place, but a feeling too that Morgan has returned to the fold of official favour. "We believe we now have the support of the Bank of England," Sir Peter Carey ventured yesterday.

The Bank's approval, needless to say, is an essential element of Morgan's recovery since its disapproval had led directly to the resignation of Christopher Reeves, the former chief executive, and Graham Walsh, head of corporate finance, only two months earlier.

No one can be certain how long the fall-out from the Guinness and Geoffrey Collier affairs will last, but Morgan is optimistically making no provision for legal liability if one of the many parties involved decides to sue. Morgan insists that it has lost no business because of the high profile activities of Mr Collier and Roger Seelig, who was the first to depart, though a possible downturn in corporate finance activity generally this year may make good business harder to find any way. That could accelerate the inevitable change in emphasis of the group as securities contribute a greater proportion of profits and corporate finance — still making about 40 per cent of overall profits — less.

So far, Morgan's securities operations do not look bad in comparison with those of the clearing banks. A total cost of about £15 million for development and trading losses after Big Bang is not excessive. MG Securities insists that it has been more than covering its costs since October and has captured about 9 per cent of equity market turnover. It is also gradually adding to its range of traded stocks just when a number of competitors are reducing theirs.

Nonetheless Morgan's success as a securities house is not guaranteed. The tide may be starting to turn its way again, but memories in the City are long. Morgan made life more complex for everyone by playing fast and loose with the takeover rules and committed the unpardonable sin of being found out. It won few friends and the ranks of its admirers have thinned.

But it is far from being a lost cause. Much depends on who is chosen for the central job of chief executive. He will need wide experience of both banking and securities, a reputation for dynamism and probity and a great deal of patience. No wonder the bank is taking its time finding him.

Lawson at the Gallup

When unanimity breaks out in the City and, in particular, unanimity about a Nigel Lawson Budget, beware. (The Chancellor, I am glad to report, is in robust health). There was plenty in the Budget for the gilt market, if a little less than the equity market might have wished for and the City's response, expressed in a torrent of circulars, was good, though not uniformly so.

The first prize goes to Goldman Sachs, not for analysis of Budget changes (Deloitte's splendid breakfast seminar at the Savoy led the field in this category), but for a list of Government Gallup Poll ratings before and after all Budgets since 1949. All Nigel Lawson's Budgets have been unpopular.

Last year, there was a 3½-point drop in the Government's poll rating; in 1985, a 6½-point fall; in 1984, a decline of 5 points.

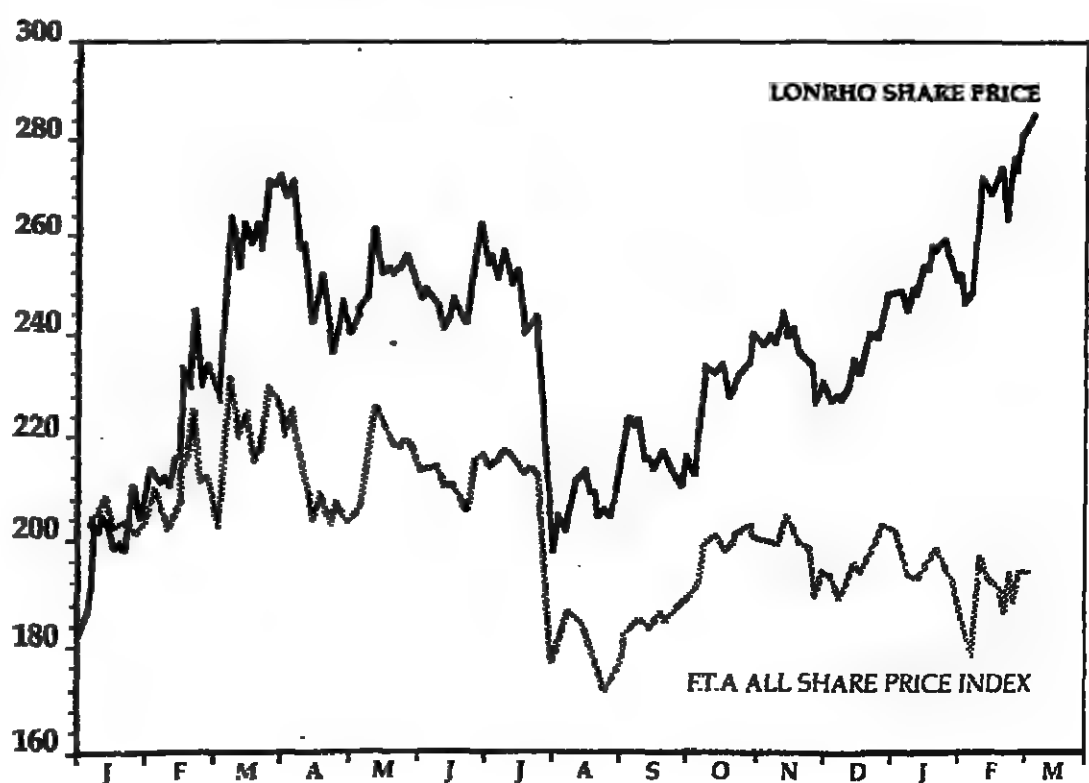
Only once has the Conservatives' rating improved after a Budget under Mrs Thatcher: in 1982, when the Falklands War clouded the figures. Unless the Chancellor's latest effort changes the sequence, the cosy, if rather fragile, link from low public-sector borrowing to interest-rate reductions might be broken. The Japanese buyers who have piled into the gilt market would find good reason to move out again somewhat sharply.

The pound would have an attack of the vapours and the prospect of a long, hot summer before an October general election would not be pleasing to the market. Yesterday's half-point cut in interest rates betrayed a proper caution while leaving the market in delicious anticipation of another half point, perhaps next week. At least there was no new tap issue.

It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive and as long as more rate cuts are in prospect, the gilt market will not get into difficulties. But whether, for both political and economic reasons, there is life for base rates below 9.5 per cent is the interesting question.

LONRHO

Share price performance relative to the F.T.A All Share Index



PERIOD JAN 1986 — MARCH 1987

HIGH 285.00p 5 MARCH 1987

LOW 182.72p 2 JAN 1986

Source: Datastream

Lonrho Plc, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London EC2V 6BL

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DAILY DIVIDEND
£4,000

**Claims required for
+36 points**

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

1987-7	Company	Price Bic	Offer	Change Chg %	Gross Div D	Yield Y %	P/E
103	Tax Wedge	117	117	+2	8.4	5.6	18.9
105	Threat Alert	167	172		8.4	5.0	16.1
106	Thomson T-Link	535	545	-2	e		
117	Tomkins (PH)	242	247		5.23	2.1	27.1
133	Transtar Mfg (ex)	360	351	+15	18.8	9.4	13.1
230	Transcontinental Transp. & Bus	137	136	+1	9	4.7	18.8
2	Trans World	22	22		10.7	4.4	24.4
12	Transworld	39	39				38.3
68	Trans World	73	76		8.1e	0.1	122.0
78	Trans World	117	120	+3	2.9	2.4	12.0
171	Trans World & Mgmt	228	231	-11	10.7	4.7	18.5
58	Trans World	104	106		1.6	1.5	20.6
100	Trans World	104	106		1.6	1.5	20.6

INSURANCE

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1914	11926	11938	11950	11962	11974	11986	11998	12010	12022	12034	12046	12058	12070	12082	12094	12106	12118	12130	12142	12154	12166	12178	12190	12202	12214	12226	12238	12250	12262	12274	12286	12298	12310	12322	12334	12346	12358	12370	12382	12394	12406	12418	12430	12442	12454	12466	12478	12490	12502	12514	12526	12538	12550	12562	12574	12586	12598	12610	12622	12634	12646	12658	12670	12682	12694	12706	12718	12730	12742	12754	12766	12778	12790	12802	12814	12826	12838	12850	12862	12874	12886	12898	12910	12922	12934	12946	12958	12970	12982	12994	13006	13018	13030	13042	13054	13066	13078	13090	13102	13114	13126	13138	13150	13162	13174	13186	13198	13210	13222	13234	13246	13258	13270	13282	13294	13306	13318	13330	13342	13354	13366	13378	13390	13402	13414	13426	13438	13450	13462	13474	13486	13498	13510	13522	13534	13546	13558	13570	13582	13594	13606	13618	13630	13642	13654	13666	13678	13690	13702	13714	13726	13738	13750	13762	13774	13786	13798	13810	13822	13834	13846	13858	13870	13882	13894	13906	13918	13930	13942	13954	13966	13978	13990	14002	14014	14026	14038	14050	14062	14074	14086	14098	14110	14122	14134	14146	14158	14170	14182	14194	14206	14218	14230	14242	14254	14266	14278	14290	14302	14314	14326	14338	14350	14362	14374	14386	14398	14410	14422	14434	14446	14458	14470	14482	14494	14506	14518	14530	14542	14554	14566	14578	14590	14602	14614	14626	14638	14650	14662	14674	14686	14698	14710	14722	14734	14746	14758	14770	14782	14794	14806	14818	14830	14842	14854	14866	14878	14890	14902	14914	14926	14938	14950	14962	14974	14986	14998	15010	15022	15034	15046	15058	15070	15082	15094	15106	15118	15130	15142	15154	15166	15178	15190	15202	15214	15226	15238	15250	15262	15274	15286	15298	15310	15322	15334	15346	15358	15370	15382	15394	15406	15418	15430	15442	15454	15466	15478	15490	15502	15514	15526	15538	15550	15562	15574	15586	15598	15610	15622	15634	15646	15658	15670	15682	15694	15706	15718	15730	15742	15754	15766	15778	15790	15802	15814	15826	15838	15850	15862	15874	15886	15898	15910	15922	15934	15946	15958	15970	15982	15994	16006	16018	16030	160
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SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT

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NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

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OIL & GAS

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS		Circulation		Revenue	
		1990	1991	1990	1991
1	NY Times	2,022,000	2,072,000	\$3.8	\$4.1
2	LA Times	1,741,000	1,741,000	\$3.2	\$3.1
3	Wall St. J.	1,030,000	1,030,000	\$4.4	\$4.6
4	NY Daily News	1,020,000	1,020,000	\$2.8	\$2.8
5	USA Today	1,010,000	1,010,000	\$2.7	\$2.7
6	San Francisco Ex.	721,000	721,000	\$2.7	\$2.7
7	General News	691,000	691,000	\$2.6	\$2.6
8	Washington Post	681,000	681,000	\$2.6	\$2.6
9	Los Angeles Times	651,000	651,000	\$2.6	\$2.6
10	Chicago Tribune	641,000	641,000	\$2.6	\$2.6
11	San Jose Mercury	631,000	631,000	\$2.6	\$2.6
12	San Diego Union	621,000	621,000	\$2.6	\$2.6
13	San Francisco Chron.	611,000	611,000	\$2.6	\$2.6
14	Los Angeles Obs.	601,000	601,000	\$2.6	\$2.6
15	San Jose Mercury	591,000	591,000	\$2.6	\$2.6
16	San Jose Mercury	581,000	581,000	\$2.6	\$2.6
17	San Jose Mercury	571,000	571,000	\$2.6	\$2.6
18	San Jose Mercury	561,000	561,000	\$2.6	\$2.6
19	San Jose Mercury	551,000	551,000	\$2.6	\$2.6
20	San Jose Mercury	541,000	541,000	\$2.6	\$2.6

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77	128	Settle	1301	1331	-11	7.4	5.6	8.7
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80	131	Stockland 'A'			+1			
81	132	Townland Jersey	154	157		8.6	5.5	8.9
82	133	Townland Jersey	65	66		5.5	4.6	7.2
83	134	Townland Jersey	72	73		5.5	4.6	7.2
84	135	Townland Jersey	120	121		5.5	4.6	7.2
85	136	Townland Jersey	130	131		5.5	4.6	7.2
86	137	Townland Jersey	130	131		5.5	4.6	7.2
87	138	Townland Jersey	240	250		10.0	4.0	

TOBACCO								
88	139	BAT (S)	517	521	-3	18.4	3.5	18.8
89	140	Carroll	1201	1202				
90	141	Carroll	245	248	+3	10.0	4.0	8.7

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend c Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrap or share sold t Tax-free ... No significant data.

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1. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1990, 27, 1, 1-14.

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QUALITY IN INDUSTRY

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT



Four years after the Government started its National Quality Campaign, a look at its role and its effectiveness



John Butcher, junior minister leading the quality campaign, and right, at Jaguar's Coventry plant, workers Wally White, left, Jean Barnacle, Geoff Mills and Susan Kane complete the luxury touch on the latest model



In search of saving billions

In the late 1970s, a study of British industry concluded that companies were burdened by an extra £10 billion of costs because of lack of quality, a sum that represents 10 per cent of gross domestic product.

Such statistics gave birth in 1983 to the Government's multi-million pound National Quality Campaign, designed to fit in with the DTI's overall aim of improving the climate for industry and encouraging innovation.

Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, says — four years later — that the inescapable message for companies is "if you want your customers to come back, you need to ensure that your products don't". In other words, re-establishing Britain's reputation for producing goods of high quality and performance that will both attract customers and keep them.

The campaign was designed, said Mr Channon, to promote company-wide commitment to quality involving everybody from top management to the newest recruit "with the aim of making everyone aware of the importance of their own particular role and where it fits into the drive to improve total quality."

The foundations for the quality campaign, however, were laid in 1982 with the publication of the White Paper, Standards, Quality and International Competitiveness.

This laid down four broad areas in which the Government aimed to promote quality and encourage the adoption of standards, among them the development of independent certification schemes, a national accreditation system and the launching of a quality-awareness campaign.

The DTI says: "Modern quality management means adopting a total approach to quality. This requires a company or organization to arrange every aspect of its activity in a cost-effective way which ensures that a product or service is designed, built and delivered to meet the final

customer's needs and expectations.

"A vital part of this is making every member of the organization aware of quality and the importance of their role in achieving it."

The campaign, sponsored by the DTI jointly with the Confederation of British Industry, the National Economic Development Office and the British Standards Institution, aims specifically at encouraging self-help.

At the centre of the effort is the UK standard for quality management systems, BS5750, the prosaic but most important of the benchmarks by which companies are assessed. In 1984, about 6,000 firms had qualified for entry in the Register of Quality Assessed United Kingdom Companies; by last September the figure had risen to 9,000.

BS5750 will save you money, company managements are told, because procedures will be more soundly based and more efficient, it will ensure satisfied customers and it will reduce waste and time-consuming re-working of designs and procedures. In fact, the campaign has proceeded in several stages, beginning with advertising and followed by a series of conferences and seminars around the country. Now, it is concentrating on industrial sectors.

One of the biggest early boosts came from Rank Xerox, the UK-based copier manufacturer which has adopted stringent quality measures as part of its drive to fight off Japanese competition. The DTI offered support, including financial aid, to the first 40 suppliers to approach the company with plans to run their own Xerox-type quality campaigns.

On the standards front, says the DTI, much has been done but efforts will have to continue. "not least in drawing in greater commitment by industry and others, if standards-making and the standards produced in Britain are to be accorded the importance in industrial thinking which they undoubtedly warrant."

ET

The new key to competing

The Government aims to double to 80,000 the number of British companies taking part in the National Quality Campaign. Commitment by industry at the highest level is vital, say ministers, if the country is to gain a new reputation for making goods of real, lasting and genuine quality.

Numerous enterprises, large and small and including top names such as Jaguar and Rank Xerox, are increasingly preaching the quality gospel. But are they too few and too late? Once the money runs out, will British industry return to the bad old ways and see new-found market shares crumble?

After a shaky start, the National Quality Campaign, now four years old, looks to have gained momentum, but the Department of Trade and Industry recognizes that it must retain the initiative. Quality, believe ministers and many industry leaders, underpins all of the so-called non-price factors that have become appreciated as the new shiny keys to international industrial competitiveness.

John Butcher, the junior industry minister spearheading the

campaign, is confident that the changing management culture in Britain will accelerate the drive for quality. "You cannot measure this cultural change," he said. "You can measure the results of it in terms of increasing market share or volume or export successes measured against the best international competition."

But is the quality campaign a cover-up, a government ruse to divert attention from the erosion of the nation's manufacturing base and the huge level of unemployment?

Mr Butcher is adamant that the opposite is the case; quality creates competitiveness and that leads to stronger industries and more jobs.

He said: "The evidence of the restored health of the manufacturing sector is overwhelming. Even the most cautious of our internal economists at the Department of Trade and Industry are using words like 'booyant', an accurate and impartial description of industrial performance and prospects."

Some sectors of industry have always matched the quality of their European competitors, "but in others we almost opted out of the race in the 1970s and it is here that we are now hauling in the

Continental's lead. This is not just because of the exchange-rate bonus but also because we have reacquired the 19th-century virtue of concentrating on non-price factors as much as price itself."

But as with so many areas of government-industry policy in the UK, it is well-nigh impossible to keep politics out of the quality equation. Mr Butcher is no exception. "Provided current trends continue and we do over the next decade what we have started in the

Selling more on better marketing

last three years, we can beat anybody," he said.

"Alternatively, we run the risk of throwing it all away. With an alternative government we would have a number of non-market pressures imposed on management, diverting their effort on to the industrial relations and remuneration of employees fronts, an undermining of the enterprise culture nationally and we would go back to living a lie, which is that somehow we can create jobs without continuing gains in competitiveness."

The current healthy obsession with quality was one of the forces which was leading the UK industry back into increasing its share in the domestic market and recent improvements in the export markets.

"The Brits, like the Germans, are selling more and more on increased quality and higher added value, better marketing, better design. Quality is at the heart of the non-price factors as perceived by consumers, with research showing that 50 per cent of buying decisions are made on non-price factors."

The big, inherited problem, in Mr Butcher's view, is that Britain threw away its reputation for quality and its made-in-Britain aura of excellence. But he adds that "many of our manufacturers have re-learned the quality message. My only fear is that British consumers are still suffering from a time lag in appreciation of British quality."

"Huge efforts are being made, many of them unseen, and I find it ironic that a lot of our manufacturers say that by increasing their market share of exports, they can only then convince the British that their products are worth looking at."

It was a legitimate DTI role to

target the producer so that where best quality methods and management were identified, departmental resources were used to spread awareness either on a sectoral basis or on a regional basis, or by using individual spearhead companies.

Increasing the number of companies with an internal quality programme to 80,000 would give a sufficiently large population of quality-conscious firms for the message to filter through at its own pace.

Mr Butcher said: "Some forms of interventionism subvert market forces and other forms work with the grain of market forces. Quality comes into the latter category. The DTI is accepting the view of those who are commercially successful and helping to spread that awareness to others."

"So there are no hang-ups about using taxpayers' money to help their fellow taxpayers increase their market share and provide more jobs. The pump priming will finish when the quality culture is so prevalent that the vast majority of companies are doing it for enlightened self-interest reasons."

Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent



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It sponsors a comprehensive programme of training courses and seminars; publishes regular journals and booklets; and operates the National Quality Information Centre, giving advice on all quality related subjects. Publishes and distributes twice a year a Directory of QA Education and Training facilities.

BQA

The British Quality Association

The BQA acts as a focal point for national activities, and provides a forum for the expression of opinion, affecting all industrial and commercial sectors.

For more information on the membership requirements and the activities of the IQA and the BQA, write to: The Secretary General, IQA, 10 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1 0DQ.



Kineticon Limited actively support the 1987 National Quality Campaign.

Having participated in the 1985 campaign, major benefits are attributed to the recommendations and later company liaison created during the National Quality Campaign. It is a state of mind mutually shared by employers and employees, which reflects the health of a company.

It is this attitude, commonly shared, which will revitalise British industry.

Kineticon Limited is a British Company, with an American subsidiary. It designs and manufactures the world's most advanced Burn-In Test System.

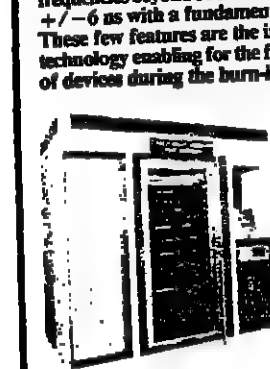
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QUALITY IN INDUSTRY/2

FOCUS

The campaign to keep our standards high

The main drive of the National Quality Campaign pursued by the Government since 1983 has been to encourage the greater use of standards and certification schemes by British companies.

A particular objective has been to urge companies to adopt quality systems that comply with British Standard 5750 and to prove they are capable of maintaining quality at every stage of their activities. BS 5750 was introduced in 1978, but industry awoke to its value in a real sense only when prompted by the Government's campaign.

Now applications for assessment against the standard are flowing in so fast that though the 2,000th registration as a BSI Registered Firm of Assessed Capability has yet to be officially presented (later this month, to British Telecom), the number of registrations has already reached 2,400.

The firms that qualify join the Department of Trade and Industry's register of UK Quality Assured companies, and are given preference when tendering for contracts from public purchasing bodies such as government departments, the Property Services Agency and the National Health Service.

BS 5750 is a wide-ranging standard, applicable across the

whole range of production and service industries to establish a thorough basis for good quality-control procedures, and increasingly used as a basic requirement in the public sector.

Assessment against it is no mere formality. It is more like an examination for firms that have already worked their way through BS 4891, the British Standard Guide to Quality Assurance, and the candidate companies have to knuckle down to minute detail to pass.

Though a few companies pass with flying colours, most are given only probationary

Kitemark symbol commands respect

passes, on the condition that identified problems are corrected within three months.

The Engineering Standards Committee, forerunner of the British Standards Institution, started work in 1901, so British Standards have long been recognized as a means of increasing the efficiency, productivity and cost-effectiveness of industry.

The British Standards Institution kitemark has been known for more than 60 years as a first-class marketing tool for products of assured quality. The first kitemark was awarded to GEC in 1926 for light fittings, and the oldest

still extant is one held by Pilkington since 1938 for safety glass.

There are 1,300 companies still operating kitemark licences and about 200 safety mark licences (introduced in 1975).

Now the kite and safety marks are available only to products that have been tested against the relevant British standard, from manufacturers who have been assessed against BS 5750.

The BSI and the DTI signed a memorandum in 1984 setting up the National Accreditation Bodies, providing for their impartial assessment too. The Council, in effect, examines the examiners to ensure that they do their work competently and in accordance with criteria that are acceptable internationally.

Accreditation of the certification bodies is in its infancy, but as yet the most widely accredited commercial certification body is Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Ltd. The BSI's own quality assurance services are, as yet, accredited only in the steel sector.

Three more accreditations will be announced soon, and eventually the Government's demand on the public buying sector will be that they buy only from companies that have been certified by accredited certification bodies.

The queue for eventual accreditation is likely to include the many undoubtedly competent bodies already providing certification services in particular specialist fields — such as the Ceramic Industries Certification Scheme, the British Constructional Steelwork Quality Assurance Scheme, the Pressure Vessels Quality Assurance Board and all the quality-assurance services offered on a commercial basis.

Robin Young

Information on the National Quality Campaign is available from the Department of Trade and Industry, Standards and Quality Product Unit, Bridge Place, 89 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1PT (tel: 01-212 8929)



Independent third-party certification is offered by the British Constructional Steelwork Quality Assurance Scheme for building projects such as the Airside Passenger Vehicle Station at Terminal Four, Heathrow Airport

Jumping on the bandwagon

After a nail-biting slow start, the Department of Trade and Industry's various support schemes to improve quality in industry have in the view of the administrators been a runaway success, writes Edward Townsend.

Initial reluctance, based on traditional suspicion of Whitehall interference, more normal routine and more work to comply with departmental rules, has given way to a stampede to jump on the quality bandwagon. Whether the money has been well spent — and applications for payments for some schemes are continuing — remains a judgement for the future. In any case it will be difficult to assess how much better quality in isolation has been responsible for companies' improved trading performance and prospects. It remains a component part of the overall drive by

BTAS in the past four years. The biggest of the three schemes, in money terms, offers a direct consultancy service to help firms to understand the necessary steps for the installation of "a sound quality-management system". To date, more than 3,000 applications have been made and grants have totalled £12,850,000. The scheme provides small firms with up to 500 workers, a total of 15 days' consultancy, with 75 per cent of the fees paid by the DTI.

The second scheme, Support for Implementing Quality Management Systems (QASS), has been a greater success than the department envisaged and expected total expenditure will be about £4 million.

QASS was introduced after the publication of the new British Standards 5750 in 1983. The aim was to put together a core of 500 UK companies as case studies to demonstrate the

benefits of quality assurance. In the event, 696 applications were received and the scheme was closed at the end of

December. But it is only in the last year that the quality message has filtered through to industry far enough to calm DTI fears that the QASS scheme would become a white elephant. Of the 696 applications, 400 were received in 1986, and expenditure in 1986-87 bounded to £935,000 from £760,000 the previous year and only £79,000 in 1984-85.

A firm spending up to £100,000 on implementing quality measures could claim 25 per cent of the expenditure as a grant under QASS.

The third part of the assistance package is a system of grants for the development of certification schemes. Certification, says the DTI, ensures that the quality management system of a firm is organized in line with modern practice, and that regular testing of products helps to promote good design.

Changing management culture in manufacturing

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Is your company making effective use of its resources?

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QUALITY COUNTS

Fair profits

Hallr



FOCUS

QUALITY IN INDUSTRY/3

Fair profits and satisfied customers

Some firms are founded on quality and some have quality thrust upon them by the pressure to reduce costs and improve their competitive edge. The common thread that joins healthy sales figures, minimum reject costs, a satisfied work force and a satisfied customer is the good quality of the product.

This may seem blindingly obvious but has only recently been formalized as a maxim for the whole of industry, from the makers of the humblest widget to the most complex example of high electronics.

The pressure for improvement has come from several directions. In a fast-moving, complex, high-volume consumer society, the potential for disaster is far greater. The structural integrity of a building may depend on the sum of the quality of its least obvious parts. In the mass manufacture of food, the division between satisfaction

For its part in the spread of quality consciousness, the company must provide the manufacturing equipment that allows the workers to match the ideal, yet maintain a volume of production that brings profit to the company.

All experience shows that improving quality in a production process brings a dramatic reduction of costs.

A striking example of how even the simplest product may demand the most stringent quality standards is provided by Ives Pharmaceuticals of Larnie in Northern Ireland.

The company mixes water with salt in plastic bags - which might not seem to call for much expertise or quality control. But this saline solution is fed directly into the veins of hospital patients.

One mistake, said Ives's managing director, Dr William Woodside, and the company would be finished. The product licence sets stringent standards for both the fluid and its packaging and the company imposes its own additional standards of quality assurance (by careful selection of certified raw materials) and quality management.



Dimensional check on a roller for a large bearing: great accuracy is a standard requirement

concentrate first on the two-thirds of defects coming from other sources.

Restrictive practices have not been a problem. Harker recognized them as part of the skilled worker's pride in his trade. He said that when a man saw he was being offered a genuine chance to learn new skills he became less defensive.

The measuring instruments made by Penny and Giles for such demanding agencies as the Ministry of Defence and the Civil Aviation Authority require a near-perfect standard of performance and reliability.

The quality manager at the company has a broader role than pure inspection and is considered a valuable resource: a catalyst and positive force for change to whom anyone can refer.

The remarkable turnaround in the fortunes of Jaguar from the brink of extinction to thriving success has rested on the improved quality of the cars as much as the rise in productivity of the workers. The company introduced a campaign, "In Pursuit of Perfection", with department managers formed into task forces that investigated and cured groups of faults.

Jaguar insisted that all contracting firms, with whom 60 per cent of faults were found to lie, should agree to accept responsibility for warranty costs arising from failure of their components. The suppliers are now considered part of the Jaguar team and are involved in product design at the earliest stage.

Corah of Leicester employs 4,500 in nine factories and produces more than a million garments a week, many of them bound for that fastidious outlet, Marks & Spencer.

Responsibility for quality has long rested with the operator actually making the goods, with a close inspection of every garment at the end of the production line. But a logical quality campaign in the company has cut the number of reject garments by half and customer returns by two-thirds.

At R H P Bearings' factories, quality control has undergone a revolution. The large teams of inspectors ruthlessly scrapping everything that failed to match up to requirements has gone.

The company said: "Our operators are now our quality inspectors." Declining markets, intense competition and rising costs forced the company into a rationalization. The cost of quality was measured as the value of time and material lost as scrap and the wages of non-productive inspection staff.

At one stage 186 inspectors watched over the work of 607 production operators. Today that ratio is around 60 to 470 and many inspectors have been re-trained as operators. Increased job satisfaction is reflected in excellent results.

The competition among breakfast-cereal manufacturers is intense, as any supermarket shelf stocked with the all the available varieties will testify.

Quality control in the food industry was already sophisticated long before other industries began talking about quality circles and consul-

Power to close down the plant completely

tative committees between workers and management.

In Kettering, Northamptonshire, about 60 million Weetabix are baked every week, each one to an identical standard of size, shape and content. With stocks held at little more than zero, interruptions to supply would be serious, so liaison with the workers and their unions is close.

First names are used at all levels among the 1,500 employees. There are as few formal rules as possible and regular meetings of a joint consultative committee which discusses everything happening in the factory except wage rates.

The quality control department has the power to shut down the plant completely if it suspects that standards are not being met. Production is monitored by electronic machines. The Weetabix makers take pride in matching the two great imperatives of their trade: value for money and quality that it would take only a mouse or a solitary wheat weevil to damage.

Ronald Faux

What he or she buys should fulfil its contract

and Montezuma's Revenge rests on the meticulous attention to quality.

Beyond these and a thousand other examples, the customer has come to expect that what he or she buys actually fulfils its contract and works, otherwise the loss to the manufacturer is two-fold: the return of reject goods and the departure of a customer to a competitor.

At shop-floor level, quality standards rarely these days depend on an authoritarian layer of inspectors picking out the bad apples among the finished products at a stage when responsibility for the fault may be difficult to pin down.

The mood these days is to ensure that a sense of quality percolates throughout the factory, commissioning each individual worker as his or her own quality controller. The process must, of course, begin at the top with board-level decisions in which everyone can believe.

The design of the product has to be right. It might also be backed by reasonable service and maintenance systems and preferably be capable of development.

The highest quality in a valve which may have to contain pressures of up to 9,000 pounds a square inch or consignments of toxic, inflammable or corrosive liquids is manifestly essential. At the Hindle Cockburn Co. in Leeds, where these highly specialized valves are manufactured chiefly for the oil and chemical industries, they say that nobody can inspect goodness into a man's work.

Every member of the company is aware that he or she alone is responsible for quality standards. Every item at the factory must be certificated; if not, the consignment is turned away.

The company said: "We have turned away wagon-loads. That is the best way of getting the message through if they won't be told the first time."

Within the factory, quality control is equally strict. An incorrect job is returned and the re-working time does not count towards a bonus. Workers are now used to this self-inspection routine and defects because of poor workmanship are rare.

Harker and Sons Engineers

Each member of the company is alone responsible for standards

at Stockton-on-Tees originated in the 19th century as a producer of steam engines for ships and trawlers. The company now specializes in components for the more subtle energy produced by oil and nuclear power and for the aerospace industry. Much of Harker's production is controlled by an on-line, real-time computer system through which the frequent revisions and amendments are recorded.

Materials and stage inspections are also recorded in a complete information system which extends from top management to shop floor.

The company has found that though workers were at first apprehensive, the attitude has turned to positive acceptance of new technology that gives everyone a chance to learn new skills.

Said Malcolm Harker, the managing director: "There was some concern in the unions about responsibility for faults but we convinced them that this was not something aimed at the workforce. In fact, less than one-third of problems can generally be directed to the operator."

"You'll always have some mistakes made by human beings, I would rather con-

Product Conformity in the Reinforcing Steel Industry.



CARES The UK Certification Authority for Reinforcing Steels.

For further information and a comprehensive list of Approved Firms holding CARES certificates, please contact: Ian Morgan, Executive Director, CARES, Oak House, Lubs Hill, Swanton, Kent TN11 1BB. Tel: 0522 540000.

The symbol of the Reinforcing Steel Industry is a mark of quality and a symbol of the industry's commitment to excellence.



The Loss Prevention Certification Board

For further information and a comprehensive list of Approved Firms holding LPC certificates, please contact: Ian Morgan, Executive Director, LPC, Oak House, Lubs Hill, Swanton, Kent TN11 1BB. Tel: 0522 540000.

The symbol of the Loss Prevention Industry is a mark of quality and a symbol of the industry's commitment to excellence.

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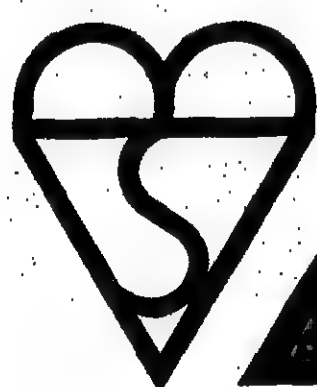
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Hallmarks of Quality



The Kitemark



The Safety Mark



The Registered Firm Symbol



The Registered Stockist Symbol



BS 9000

Today's buyers are more knowledgeable, more demanding and more inclined to buy from quality conscious suppliers - suppliers that can convince them that their quality needs will be met in full.

Many buyers not only need convincing, they also require hard evidence to support the manufacturer's claims that a product reaches a desired specification or that the manufacturer operates a first class quality system.

Quality Assurance Services, a division of BSI, can provide your company with the evidence that you need to convince your customers of your commitment to quality.

Good marketing and quality are the ingredients of the recipe of success and the BSI Hallmarks of Quality establish a direct bond between them.

Single Firm Registration to BS 5750

The base of most of BSI's quality schemes is BS 5750 Quality Systems, and any company who can demonstrate that they are operating a documented quality system in line with the standard can apply for registration as a BSI Registered Firm of Assessed Capability.

Sector based registration to BS 5750

Certain sectors of manufacturing and service industries require a scheme which not only uses BS 5750 but takes into account their special requirements and their clients.

These special requirements, determined by the manufacturing or service industry, its clients and BSI, are set out clearly in a Quality Assessment Schedule.

The registration procedure is identical to single firm registration with the addition that the requirements of the Quality Assessment Schedule must also be met.

Registration of Stockists of Assessed Capability

The BSI system for the registration of stockists is designed to be a nationally accepted system for the distribution of quality assessed products. The Registered Stockist Symbol is a sure indication of goods that have been manufactured, stored, handled and packed to the highest standard.

Certification

The Kitemark, probably the best known certification mark in the UK, is a product certification mark showing that the product has been manufactured to a specific British Standard under a quality system to BS 5750. This is an invaluable marketing benefit where conformity with a specification is a prerequisite. In

addition to the assessment of the Quality System, the products are subjected to the relevant tests as laid down in the appropriate standard.

Safety Mark Certification

The Safety Mark is another product certification mark and the procedures for offering it are exactly the same as the Kitemark. As the name implies, however, it is only used in conjunction with a safety standard or the parts of a standard that deal with safety.

Tailor-made Certification or Assessment Schemes

The BS 9000 logo is used only in the electronic industry as part of a tailor-made scheme specifically for that industry. BSI operates a number of specially designed schemes to suit the unique requirements of a particular industry. Should your requirements not fall into one of the previous categories, start talking with BSI and between us we can devise a quality assessment scheme which will meet your quality requirements and those of your customers.

Putting Quality into Action!

BSI Quality Assurance Services

Contact us at: British Standards Institution, Linford Wood, Milton Keynes, MK14 6LO Tel. 0908 315555

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Personal Assistant to the Chairman

Heathrow, the world's premier international airport, is owned and managed by Heathrow Airport Limited, a subsidiary company of BAA plc. The Chairman of the company, who is also its Managing Director, requires someone with several years' senior-level secretarial experience to work as his Personal Assistant.

Supported by a secretary, acting under your supervision, you will be responsible for co-ordinating an extensive schedule of meetings and engagements, for making travel arrangements and for ensuring that the appropriate briefings and reports are received from the airport's managers. You will also be expected to liaise with a variety of external organisations and will frequently be required to answer queries and draft letters on behalf of, and without reference to, the Chairman.

An accomplished organiser, with a high degree of self-motivation, you should be able to demonstrate that you can remain calm under pressure and communicate, effectively and pleasantly, with a wide range of people. Ideally, you will have had specific experience of working for people at board level.

A salary of c.£13,500 is being offered together with an attractive package of benefits.

Please send a full CV to Sally Chanter, Heathrow Airport Limited, D'Albiac House, Room 117, Heathrow Airport, Hounslow, Middlesex TW6 1JH. Or telephone for an application form on 01-745 6498.



PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

Martin Retail Group comprises over 1,200 shops country-wide and a Personal Assistant (to replace the present one who is moving out of the area) is required for the Managing Director at the Head Office in Brentwood, Essex.

The successful applicant is likely to be in the 35-45 age group, efficient, approachable, able to work on her own initiative, with a minimal amount of guidance, and under considerable pressure.

This is definitely not a 9-5 job. Total commitment and excellent shorthand and typing speeds are necessary. Accuracy and presentation are of paramount importance. A sense of humour is essential as is the ability to work well with people at all levels.

The Head Office is set in delightful surroundings and there is a Staff Restaurant and Social Club. Salary would be circa £10,500 pa, with four weeks' holiday, BUPA cover, Company pension, IBM Personal Computer and IBM typewriter.

Please send CV in strictest confidence to Mrs P S Burton, Personal Assistant to Managing Director, Martin Retail Group, Martin House, Ashwell Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9ST.

Martin Retail Group

MD's SECRETARY

Stanmore C£12k plus benefits

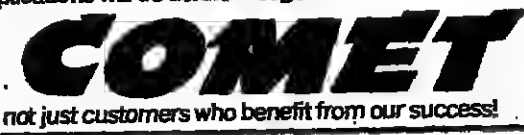
We're the UK's leading 'out-of-town' electrical retailer about to relocate a key senior management team to new offices in Stanmore - close to the tube and only 10 mins from the M1.

Our MD is looking for someone who is more than just a Secretary - in fact someone who is a first rate organiser. Working on your own initiative, you'll arrange his life-fixing meetings, arranging travel and so on. In addition, you'll also be responsible for office administration, so there's plenty of scope to use your own ideas and implement your own systems.

Obviously it's important that you have the basics to do the job: competent shorthand & typing, a good level of education, a presentable appearance and experience at this level. Certainly, you'll be able to work under pressure and show adaptability and initiative.

We'll reward these qualities with a negotiable salary around £12,000, the chance to work at the very centre of a major company's decision-making process and an attractive range of company benefits.

To apply, in the first instance, write only with a detailed CV and send in confidence to Malcolm Gault, Regional Training Manager, Comet Group plc, c/o Lonsdale Advertising Services, Hesketh House, Portman Square, London W1H 9FG. Please quote ref LAS/2000 on your envelope. All applications will be acknowledged.



Brook Street has new opportunities in recruitment.

If you are self-motivated, with a will to succeed, selling in a constantly changing market place will provide a challenging working environment.

To deal effectively with both clients and applicants, you'll need a strong personality with effective communication skills.

The rewards are high - when you reach new goals and objectives each day the satisfaction is immense and the benefits of being part of our large, progressive organisation are unequalled.

Meet our challenge now by contacting:

Julia Moss on 01-486 6144
136 Baker St, W1M 1FH

David Morris on 262 1116
242 Edgware Road, W2 1DS

BETTER PEOPLE COME FROM BROOK STREET



ENGLISH-SPEAKING SECRETARIES

to work in international surroundings in an organization contributing to European unity.

Candidates should possess good secondary education plus secretarial college training to 110 wpm shorthand and 50 wpm typing.

Good knowledge of French essential. Age under 35 normally.

Starting salary: 10,280 FF gross monthly, including expatriation, tax exempt.

Application forms (to be returned by 24 April 1992) available with further details from: Head of Establishment Division (ref. 14/87) COUNCIL OF EUROPE - B.P. 431 R6 - 67006 Strasbourg Cedex - France.

Secretarial Overseas Opportunities

Brown & Root (UK) Limited has vacancies for first class candidates to work overseas joining a large team engaged in the engineering and management of an original water supply project.

Applicants must be 35+, have excellent secretarial skills (120/60 wpm minimum), and have in-depth knowledge of word processing preferably on IBM Word Star. Previous overseas experience - especially in Middle Eastern or an African environment - would be an advantage, together with the ability to work in a pressurised situation.

An attractive remuneration package will be offered including tax free salary, free board, bi-monthly home leaves with flights paid, plus non-contributory pension, free life assurance and medical schemes.

Please apply in writing to Linda Coote, Project Personnel Co-ordinator, Brown & Root (UK) Limited, 31 Fairfield West, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey. Telephone: 01-541 2200, ext. 240.



PA to FINANCE DIRECTOR

We need an experienced PA/Secretary to work for the Finance Director of Michael Joseph Limited and Sphere Books based at our modern, prestigious offices conveniently situated two minutes from High Street Kensington tube station.

It's a tough but rewarding position for someone with at least two years' senior level secretarial experience, ideally gained in a similar environment, who has good shorthand and audio skills, a keen interest in figures and the ability to work on their own initiative. Most importantly, we are looking for someone with in-depth knowledge of WP/Computer Systems who is able to give the Finance Director substantial assistance.

The work is interesting, and we offer a competitive salary together with all the fringe benefits, i.e. LV's, good holidays, pension scheme, etc., associated with a large organisation.

Please write with details of qualifications and experience to:

Gladys Jones,
Personnel Officer,
The Penguin Group,
27 Wrights Lane,
London W8 5TZ

Part of the Penguin Group Company

MEDIA • FINANCE • ADVERTISING • SALES • PERSONNEL

Photography £7,500 A Snap

Have you always wanted to work in photography but haven't had the chance? Well, here's the ticket.

Use your accurate typing, warm telephone manner and good presentation as the entry into this friendly and busy WP photographers.

For the bright self-starter you could see a career developing! Interested? Please ring us on 439 6021.

MEDIA • FINANCE • ADVERTISING • SALES • PERSONNEL

RECEPTIONIST

As one of the world's largest international firm of Management Consultants specialising in Executive Search, with eight offices in Mayfair, we now have a vacancy for an experienced Receptionist.

You will be our client's first impression, both on the telephone and in our reception area, that's why we seek a receptionist who will complement our professional image and who has the grace and personality to integrate with our friendly firm.

The working environment, whilst pressurised by the demands of a Mifit Switchboard and senior level communication, provides tremendous job satisfaction and team spirit.

Your responsibilities will also include coordination of in house function rooms and luncheons, some typing will add variety to your day (training will be given on Personal Computer).

In return for your commitment, we offer a highly competitive salary, discretionary bonus, LV's, BUPA, non-contributory pension scheme, life insurance, plus 4 weeks holiday.

If you would like to be part of our organisation, then please send us a copy of your curriculum vitae to:

Irene Masterton
Curtis Orban & Partners International
International Management Consultants
7 Curzon Street, London W1J 7FL

SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

for our Biocomputing Programme. Responsibilities will include general administrative and secretarial work typical of a research environment, including computer network and telephone communication, correspondence, scientific manuscripts, budget and purchase control, travel arrangements, organization of seminars and courses and assistance with the setting-up of a European biocomputing network.

Candidates must have a completed professional training and experience in organizational work and in the use of computers. Fluency in written and spoken English is essential. German and French are desirable.

We offer an above-average salary plus family, children's and non-resident allowance, depending on personal circumstances.

Please write briefly for an application form, quoting reference 87/03 to: EMBL, Personnel Section, Postfach 10.2209, D-6900 Heidelberg.



JOBFIELD SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT

SEC/AUDIO Solicitors, Co. Law, WC1 £10,000
SEC/TYPIST/WP for Technical Director W6 £9,500

BOOK-KEEPER to Trial Balance, Management Accounts in the Arts W1 £11,000
SEC/WP Chart/Accounts SBL £8,000

TELEPHONE 469 0404

BRIGHT AND BUBBLY PEOPLE PERSON

To act as secretary in busy Knightsbridge Residential Letting Agency. We need someone who is well organized, will cheerfully polish off the secretarial side of the work, answer the telephone and greet our visitors with a smile. Someone who will enjoy getting fully involved with everything we do. Good secretarial skills are important. Power and the ability to deal with people of all kinds a must. Would suit a second jobber who is ready for more responsibility and involvement or maybe someone returning to work. Salary in the £7 - 9,000 range according to age and experience.

In the first instance please telephone Kate Cullough 01 589 2133

PA £12,000 23-24 YEARS

We need a friendly and very responsible all-rounder for an unpredictable job in an exciting and unusual business. Short-hand and typing (but very little), good telephone manner and an even temper! Initiative and organizational ability are essential. Start immediately.

Contact Lindsey Spiller on 01-434 1064. (No Agencies)

AMBITIOUS PA £12,000 +

A young, lively and fast expanding Management Consultancy requires a PA/Secretary to work for their MD and become an important member of the team. Your PA duties will include liaising with clients, attending meetings on the MD's behalf, arranging conferences and office equipment. In return you will be rewarded with a twice-yearly bonus plus paid overtime. Skills: 100/60. WP experience essential. Age 23/25.

01 499 9092
Senior Secretaries

ADVERTISING W1 £11,500 + excellent benefits

This major international Advertising Co. needs an intelligent and motivated secretary for one of their main Board Directors. You will need to liaise at all levels both within the Co. and in other fields. You will enjoy the world of fast finance combined with advertising.

The Director needs your expanding ability combined with your outgoing personality. Age 30-40. 60 wpm typing, WP experience, shorthand would be useful. Ref. Com.

01 499 8892
Senior Secretaries

bendinat OVERSEAS SALES NEGOTIATOR

Exciting opportunity to sell property in Europe's leading luxury Development. Very good career prospects. Position will be based at Knightsbridge office. Typing skills required. Salary negotiable.

Call David Vaughan on 01 589 4587.
Gutter House, 125-129 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, LONDON SW3 1HW.

CAMERON CHOAT & PARTNERS

PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING CONSULTANTS
PR SECRETARY

For Director in young company located in modern, stylish offices near Gloucester Road tube. Applicants must be well groomed, have fast accurate typing (no S/H), good organisational skills and an ability to deal with clients at all levels. WP experience and advantage but will train. Age 25+.

Salary £9,500 pa + 2 bonuses pa + BUPA. Apply in writing with CV, or telephone:

Jenny McGrory
Cameron Choat & Partners
Bury House
126/128 Cromwell Road
LONDON SW7 4ET
Tel: 01-373 4537
(NO AGENCIES)

GERMAN AND FRENCH c£10,000

Move into the invigorating publishing world AND utilise your linguistic ability. Fluent German and French essential when liaising and corresponding with clients. Ability to take shorthand in English necessary. Good perks inc long holidays. Call 377-6777.

Middleton Jeffers
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

TEMPORARY CONTROLLER/OFFICE MANAGER

We are a small Word Processing Agency located close to St. Pauls and we urgently need an experienced consultant to maintain and develop our extremely successful Temporary Division. We offer a lucrative package, and good working conditions.

Please phone ZANDRA OR LYDIA
KOMPASS TRAINING CENTRE 01 734 2921

PA FOR TWO PARTNERS

In a small, friendly and growing firm of chartered accountants. Excellent offices located in New Concordia Wharf with swimming pool. Good secretarial skills (but no shorthand!) necessary for this challenging position. word processor training given if needed. Good salary and profit share.

Call Gail Wates on 231 8761 for further details

SALES ASSISTANTS

Two sales assistants are required immediately to work in an exclusive Mayfair shop selling country/shooting clothes and accessories. Previous experience preferred but not essential. Good prospects for the right applicants. Highest references necessary.

Please apply to Mrs Bates on 01-499 1801

ADMIN ASSISTANT/SECRETARY

Unique opportunity to join our young and rapidly expanding company based in the West End.

We urgently require a bright intelligent and hard working person for this varied and exciting position. Must be able to work under pressure and enjoy a challenge. Excellent conditions.

Please phone or write to:
Personnel Manager
SPIN OFF (N.V.E.) LTD.
First Floor, Lyndale House, 43-50 Great Marlborough Street, London W1V 1DG
Telephone 01 431 4295
Strictly No Agencies

PR SEC

Cry hearted co requires suitably skilled sec in SH & typing + exp in working at senior level. Good communication skills and presentation essential as lots of client liaisons. Nice office. + excellent salary package.

Please ring or write to: Maria Bond at RPL
on 01 588 6722.
16-28 Tulse Ede Street, London, EC4A 3BN (Agn).

HARLEY STREET SURGEON

Needs a PA, medical experience an advantage. Presentable with initiative. Under 35. £10,000 pa neg.

01-935 1252

RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS NEGOTIATOR

This is an excellent post for our expanding friendly team with real prospects of advancement and earnings. Based in our Pimlico office you will enjoy considerable responsibility and a financial package that fits right for you. Phone or send your CV to: Helen Hildred, Pimlico, 207 New Kings Road, Fulham SW6 4GB.

Fulham 01-789 5004

PA SEC £12,000 + EXCELLENT BENEFITS

To take full responsibility for the day to day running of a large international Co. Dealing with WP's, organising and attending luncheons etc. Must be smart, well presented, with good secretarial skills. Please call Barbara Secor for immediate interview.

01-837 6444

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

Company needs sales secretary to run PAI (Mifit) office. Immediate start. Salary c. £10,000 pa. (£7,500 basic plus comm).

Pagan Taylor Int.
50a Pall Mall, SW1
01-830 0277

SEC CITY

International co requires an exp sec with good S/H and typing skills to work for a Director dealing with legal matters. Sec must be person with about 7 to 10 yrs exp in senior level. Excellent salary package.

Please ring or write to: Maria Bond at RPL
on 01 588 6722
16-28 Tulse Ede Street, London, EC4A 3BN.

PERSONNEL SECRETARY

Bright enthusiastic secretary (age 20-25) required for busy Personnel Department of leading WI advertising agency. Experienced preferred. Must have accurate typing at 60 wpm and 80 shorthand. Personal office and friendly working environment. Good salary and benefits.

Please telephone Linda Linn on 01 636 5603.

RECEPTIONIST-TYPIST DESIGN CONSULTANCY

Would you like to work in lively, fun atmosphere? We need an enthusiastic person who can type and organise us and cope with the pressure of working for a dynamic Design Group. £8,000 neg. For more information please ring

Sandra Laird on 253 6172

Interested in Office Systems?

At O.S.R.S. we specialise in the recruitment of temporary and permanent staff with WP/PC skills. We are now looking to expand our operation with the appointment of two staff of our own as a **Temporary Controller and a Permanent Consultant**.

The environment is dynamic and stimulating and the rewards for success are excellent. If you'd like to join a winning team, call Linda Hall today.

OFFICE SYSTEMS RECRUITMENT SERVICES

115 Stablesbury Avenue
London W2H 8AD
01-439 4001

The following are needed for a young, energetic Law Firm Specialising in the music business:-

Secretary for Litigation Solicitor with at least 2 years experience. £10,000
Secretary for Conveyancing Assistant with 1 years experience. £9,000
Secretary for Litigation Assistant with 1 years experience. £8,500
Receptionist, preferably with experience of Regent. £2,000

Please apply with full C.V. in writing to:
WOOLF SKIDDON, 5 Portman Square, London W1H 9PS
NO AGENCIES

PARTNER'S SECRETARY PA

Partner and his assistant of a leading West End firm of Chartered Surveyors requires a secretary PA. Professional attitude, pleasant telephone manner and good standard of record presentation required along with excellent audio secretarial skills (S/H).

Salary £21,000 and 4 weeks holiday

Telephone 493-8424: Ref CL (No agencies)

STOCKBROKER SUPPORT £11,500

The exciting and dynamic world of a dynamic, professional and fast moving, expanding stockbroker requires a secretary and sales assistant. This environment will involve you in providing a daily service to a very successful stockbroker and sales assistant. If you thrive in this situation, we will reward you with a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Please send your CV to: Contact: Sam Kershaw, 100 Market Street, London W1P 9PS Telephone 01-499 616

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Edited by Sophie Witter and Janet Crumble

Spiritualism: dead or alive?

● An interesting account of spiritualism can be found in Norman Lewis's autobiography, *Jacobine*, which he links to a particular class and period. 40 Minutes: House of Spirits (BBC2, 9.30pm) is full of figures from the kind of genteel and, one would have thought, long-gone world described by Lewis. The Spiritualist Association believes in contact with the dead; their concerns are not of this world but perhaps best illustrated by a taste for swivel wallpaper. Dark warnings are given about frauds, requests to remove clothing and to be veiled with extreme suspicion, and suggestions of hand-holding under a table and asking "Is anyone there?" provokes stifled giggles. Well, is anyone there? Evidence is vague. Most stances appear like

guessing games; clairvoyance seems to go for safe shots in the dark and a lack of telling details. This programme keeps a straight face despite many improbabilities, although I did wonder about the interruption of one séance with a curfew to a door and a sign saying: To the Fire Exit.

● *Sharpeville Spirit* (Channel 4, 10.55pm) was made secretly in South Africa despite the State of Emergency. The film-makers were engaged to shoot out of black areas, and the result traces a local tradition of resistance and its expression through song, poetry and theatre.

Chris Petit

● Chris Petit writes: Once again the provinces provide a vernacular tradition which cinema seems unable to find in London. The derelict wilderness of Liverpool lends *No Surrender* (Channel 4, 9pm) a perfectly sinister feel for Alan Bleasdale's violent, hopeless humour. Michael Angelis may be a fool for taking on the management of a ghastly social club but he's not anyone's fool. In one long night of social terror he has to fend off nightmarishly bad vaudeville acts, an IRA man on the run and a double booking from two rival gangs. It's a comedy of terminal desperation.

The radio choice is *Markus Passio* (Radio 3, 2pm), which may be the first performance of a recently-found manuscript, dated 1752, in the style of Bach.



Boy from the black stuff: Bernard Hill and Joanne Whalley in Alan Bleasdale's violent satire *No Surrender* (Ch4, 9pm)

BBC1

6.00 *Coastal AM* 5.55 *Weather*. 7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Frank Bough, Sally Magnusson and Jeremy Paxman. National and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and traffic reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.

8.40 *Watchdog*. Lynne Fawcett Wood and John Synge investigate consumer problems 8.55 *Regional news* and weather.

9.00 *News and weather* 9.05 *Day to Day*. Robert Kilgus-Silk chairs debate on compulsory sterilisation of the mentally handicapped. With Brian Rix of MENCAP. 9.45 *Advice Show*. Margot MacDonald advises tenants on how to improve housing conditions (Coastal).

10.00 *News and weather* 10.05 *Neighbours* (7) 10.25 *Children's BBC* with Philip Schofield 10.30 *Play School* presented by Kate Copstick 10.50 *Paddington* (7)

10.55 *Five to Eleven*. Hannah Gordon with a thought for the day 11.00 *News and weather* 11.05 *The Clothes Show*. Selma Scott and Jeff Banks at Olympia 11.30 *Open Air*. With Patsy Cuthbert and Eamonn Holmes. Includes news and weather at 12.00.

12.20 *The Ten O'Clock News* with Martin Lomas. Weather 1.30 *Neighbours*. Bad times for Scott 1.30 *The Plumpies* (7)

2.00 *The Chesham Festival*. Julian Wilson presents the last day of the festival. 2.15 *The Old Vic*. *Scotchman*. 2.30 *The Christie's*. *Foxhunter* Stepienbach. 3.30 *The Tote Chesham*

BBC2

6.55 *Open University*. Social science: computers and coal. Ends at 7.35.

8.00 *Castles*. 8.15 *Daytime on Two*. Maths at work - programme three. 8.30 *Colours in the third year*. 18.18 *Water 18*. 18.58 *Vid* of the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbour in 1947 11.00 *In the air* 11.10 *Topics for discussion* 11.40 *The Cage*. 12.15 *Health and housing* in the century in Scotland. Part eight. 12.35 *Coastal*. 12.45 *Alternative sources of energy*. 1.00 *Documentaries on modern French film* 1.30 *Part Four of the series on the poems of Wales*.

2.00 *News and weather* 2.05 *Week*. Different types of birds eggs (7)

2.17 *Music Time* with music from Kodaly's *Hary Janos*.

2.35 *International Soccer*. Canada play the rest of the world in the Tuborg World Cup. Including news and weather at 3.30.

3.45 *News*, regional news and weather.

4.30 *The Chesham Festival*. Julian Wilson with the Ritz Club National Handicap. *Seepichers* on the last day of the festival.

4.30 *Pamela Armstrong* with studio guests.

4.50 *International Soccer*. Further stage from Bournemouth.

5.35 *Flm 87*. Barry Norman presents *The Fourth Protocol* and *War Zone*.

6.00 *Football Impossible* (7)

6.50 *International Pro-Country Golf*

7.40 *Call My Bluff*. With Arthur Aspinall, Sarah Badel, Derek Jacoby, Frank Mull, Barbara Dickson and Geoffrey Smith.

8.10 *The Chesham Festival*. The Chesham Festival. From Dublin.

9.00 *Foreign Bodies*, starring Dan Gordon, Colum Connery, Hilary Reynolds and Mavis Gormley.

9.30 *40 Minutes*. House of Spirits: a former nurse from Sweden, auditions to become a clairvoyant. (see Choice) (Coastal)

10.10 *International Soccer*. Scotland versus England.

10.40 *The Budget*. Roy Jenkins MP for the Alliance (7)

10.50 *Newsnight* with analysis of the main events of the day.

11.25 *Weather*.

11.35 *Ludwig van Beethoven*. Daniel Barenboim plays the Piano Sonata No 25, Op 79.

11.50 *The Chesham Festival*. Highlights of the day.

12.10 *Weekend Outlook*. A selection from *Open University* for Saturday and Sunday.

12.10 *Open University*. Psychology - is it as easy as ABC? Ends at 12.45.

BBC2

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ITV LONDON

6.45 *TV-am* with Richard Keys. Weather at 6.30 and 6.55; news at 6.30; sport at 6.45; and *Coastal* at 6.55.

7.00 *Good Morning Britain* presented by Anne Diamond and Mike Morris. News at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 8.55; pop music at 7.35 and 8.35; and *Coastal* at 8.55.

8.55 *Thames News Headlines*. 9.30 *Schools*. *Poddy* 9.45 *What's in a name*. With Ian Wright. *Beauty* 10.11 *Part three of Gulliver's travels* 10.25 *Authority and death* 11.05 *Mad English*.

11.30 *Coming to terms with the death of a family pet* 11.37 *Modern broadcasting* 12.00 *Creepy Crawlers* (7) 12.10 *Puddle Lane Puppets* programme 12.30 *The Sullivan*. Ray refuses to film a documentary about housing conditions as it seems not to tell the whole truth.

1.00 *News at One* with Leonard Pennington 1.30 *Thames News* 1.50 *Falcon Crest*. Richard Channing stars in *Jack* 2.25 *News at Two*. Recipes for yogurt scones.

2.30 *Daytime*. Sarah Kennedy hosts discussion on the compulsory sterilisation of a 17-year-old girl. With Brian Rix of MENCAP. Dr Brudenell of King's College Hospital, representatives of the SMA and NCCL, and parents.

3.00 *Football Impossible* (7)

3.30 *News*. The search for a kidnapped boy, with Tom Balleck as Magnus.

3.55 *Thames News Headlines*. 4.30 *News*. The search for a kidnapped boy, with Tom Balleck as Magnus.

4.50 *Children's ITV*. *Orme* and *Chap* 4.10 *Butterfly* 4.20 *The Wolf in the Village* 4.45 *The*

CHANNEL 4

2.20 *The Lordships' House*. Highlights of yesterday's debates in the House of Lords. (7)

2.30 *Film: I Lived With You* (1933). Ivor Novello as Prince Felix Lemeffe who flees from Russia to live with the humble Wallises family in England. Ursula Jeans plays the teenage shop assistant who falls in love with the Russian and follows him back. From a play by Ivor Novello; directed by Maurice Elvey.

4.30 *Woody Woodpecker* confronts leaguard Wally Walrus on the beach.

4.30 *Countdown*. Sharon Harper, housewife and mother from Castle Donington in Leicestershire, is in the seat today. Hosted by Richard Whitley and Richard Stilgoe.

5.00 *Film: East of Suez* (1955). Margaret Lockwood and Dirk Bogard star in this thriller. Bogard is the ambitious Clark who murders his rich wife, believing that she intends to leave her money to her sister instead of him. His new wife, the publican's widow played by Lockwood, begins to suspect him after they move into a roomy home together. Based on the play *Murder Mistaken* by Janet Green. Directed by Lewis Gilbert.

6.30 *Union World*. Trevor Hyatt and Mike Walsh look at developments in the trade union world.

7.00 *Channel 4 News*. Presented by Peter Sissons and Christopher King, includes a report on Rolls Royce, which today produces its last aircraft before privatisation. Followed by *Weather*.

8.00 *Treasure Hunt*. Anika Hunt leads the hunt around Hertfordshire with two players from Wolverhampton and Market Drayton. Rosemary Burns and Sheila Blokhain. They get help from the Royal Air Force. (Oracle)

9.00 *Film: No Surrender* (1985). Black comedy by Alan Bleasdale. Mike takes over a nightclub in Liverpool to find a taste of problems left by the previous owner. Starring Michael Angelis and Mavis Burnage. Directed by Peter Smith. (see Choice) (Oracle)

10.55 *Sharpeville Spirit*. A film made secretly 25 years after the Sharpeville massacre tracing the lives and beliefs of the people who lived under but continue to resist apartheid. With performances from Miriam Pappas, Elizabeth Tshepo and Mavis Kuba. (see Choice)

11.50 *The Lordships' House*. Highlights of today's proceedings from the House of Lords. Ends at 12.30.

VARIATIONS

BBC1 *Wales* 5.35pm-6.00pm *Wales Today* 6.30-7.00pm *Gardening Today* 7.15-7.30pm *News and weather* 7.30-7.45pm *Scottish* 7.50-8.00pm *Scottish* 8.05-8.15pm *Scottish* 8.20-8.30pm *Scottish* 8.35-8.45pm *Scottish* 8.50-9.00pm *Scottish* 9.05-9.15pm *Scottish* 9.20-9.30pm *Scottish* 9.35-9.45pm *Scottish* 9.50-10.00pm *Scottish* 10.05-10.15pm *Scottish* 10.20-10.30pm *Scottish* 10.35-10.45pm *Scottish* 10.50-11.00pm *Scottish* 11.05-11.15pm *Scottish* 11.20-11.30pm *Scottish* 11.35-11.45pm *Scottish* 11.50-12.00pm *Scottish* 12.05-12.15pm *Scottish* 12.20-12.30pm *Scottish* 12.35-12.45pm *Scottish* 12.50-1.00pm *Scottish* 1.05-1.15pm *Scottish* 1.20-1.30pm *Scottish* 1.35-1.45pm *Scottish* 1.50-2.00pm *Scottish* 2.05-2.15pm *Scottish* 2.20-2.30pm *Scottish* 2.35-2.45pm *Scottish* 2.50-3.00pm *Scottish* 3.05-3.15pm *Scottish* 3.20-3.30pm *Scottish* 3.35-3.45pm *Scottish* 3.50-4.00pm *Scottish* 4.05-4.15pm *Scottish* 4.20-4.30pm *Scottish* 4.35-4.45pm *Scottish* 4.50-5.00pm *Scottish* 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THE TIMES

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

March 19, 1987

Managing directors are a comparatively rare breed. They reach their position of eminence in a variety of ways. For some, it has been the result of sheer hard work in the same company, each rung on the promotion ladder painfully gained. For others, luck has played a large part — or, perhaps more accurately, they have made their luck as they moved from company to company. Or perhaps outstanding technical competence and commercial acumen have drawn the attention of the chairman and the board who then actively foster career development. And again, for others, promotion is the result of the best political nous around.

But whatever the path to success in the hierarchy, whatever the industry — be it service, extracting gravel, manufacturing swingle widgets or digging for diamonds — the favoured few may be less secure than they appear.

For the view they have of themselves and the way they perceive their performance are quite different from the views held of them by colleagues, subordinates, friends and competitors.

For example, how often have you observed a key executive at a reception whose progress through the crowd evokes awe, admiration, envy in the minds of most people present? If it is a man, admiring comment is made on his ability to get on with people, as he

gives a word of congratulation here, laughs heartily there, makes flattering comment on the dress sense of those he meets.

"How does he do it?" you say. "I wish I had half his presence."

If it is a woman, a similar comment is made with the knowledge that she has very probably had to work twice as hard as every male present in order to get to her present position.

The reality is often quite different. Frequently the most accomplished manager possesses an excruciating self-doubt. A smile masks the insecurity of one who knows that his self-esteem in no way matches the esteem in which he is held by others.

The reason is quite simple. He has no one to talk to about his feelings and problems. Oh, yes, he can take them on occasion to his chairman — but not too often because it might, just might, be considered an expression of failure.

He can, of course, have a word with one of his peers. Here again, once or twice is enough, for to exceed the ration might, just might, indicate that he is past it. So he retreats into his fortress, the portaculis comes down and his relationships with work force, subordinates and peers do not improve. And when you think about it, if he does not get results from his people he is not exercising his true function as a manager.

So we have the situation that a

'The employees are a company's biggest asset, and they must always come first'



Coral Morgan-Thomas

very expensive asset is not performing as effectively as it should. Now in industry and commerce the purchase of an asset can often involve the provision of a maintenance contract to service the asset over its operational life. Such a contract can be quite simple — a factory-cleaning contract, for example.

At the other extreme, maintenance can be very complex and correspondingly expensive, involving regular visits from skilled service men, instant call-out in cases of emergency and the in-house training of the purchaser's own maintenance engineers. For a factory of any size the potentially disastrous effect a breakdown can have on production schedules or effectiveness makes close attention to maintenance requirements on this scale almost mandatory.

Whatever the contract, it will cost money. Indeed, in a relatively short time expensive service visits and the cost of replacement spares may even outweigh the original cost of the asset. Despite this, many maintenance contracts are authorized prior to or at the time of purchase with little demur because in this way the purchaser buys the reassurance that the asset's effectiveness will be maintained and that any breakdown, should it occur, will be dealt with immediately.

So it's odd, isn't it, that a company can appoint a managing director or senior executive without giving a thought to the maintenance of the asset? Even odder when you think that this kind of asset in a medium-sized company can cost the purchaser anything between £300,000 and

£500,000 over a 10-year period. Where long-term contracts are the norm the cost to the employer over the effective life of an executive can easily exceed £1 million.

If the executive never gets out of low gear, leaves or falls under the proverbial bus, the cost of replacement, involving recruitment expenses and the inevitable learning curve, mean we are in the middle of some very big figures indeed.

Extend the reasoning to cover all employees in companies and organizations against the background of the head count and the absolute necessity for every individual to make his or her effective contribution to the enterprise, then it might suggest that reassessment of how people are viewed is overdue.

Fortunately, there are resources

available now to provide all levels of a company with "people maintenance" services that can be tailored to suit individual requirements. For some companies there is an urgent need to work with senior executives whose work is falling below acceptable standards; private counselling sessions will establish what remedial action could bring about an improvement. For others, counselling sessions with each board member can help to remove the blocks that so often limit the effectiveness of board debate.

Again, some companies — alarmed at excessive stress levels or unable to resolve unacceptable changes of behaviour in individuals or groups (resulting in, for example, heavy absenteeism) — will arrange for counsellors to be available to anyone for private discussion at specified times during the working week throughout the year.

From experience, the benefits of a sound, planned approach to counselling are both short-term and long-term. For senior executives under stress the effects can be immediate and sometimes dramatic. For groups and companies the long-term improvements in morale and corporate well-being can be objectively tested. At the very top level, counselling can make a positive

and observable contribution to building the board team.

What should a company look for in the provider of a counselling service? In addition to the normal inquiries that one would make concerning a potential supplier of any service, I would suggest that there are two key criteria to be met. They are that the counsellors:

● Should have been trained in personal and group counselling to an acceptable standard by a recognized institution. A degree in psychology does not of itself meet this criterion.

● Should have practised their skills in industry and commerce. This is essential because in such assignments time is at a premium and counselling cannot proceed at the more leisurely pace acceptable elsewhere.

In sum, I would maintain that the application of conventional asset maintenance principles to the most important asset a company has, namely its people, is a matter of first priority. Within that category, attention paid to the chief executive's sense of comfort with himself and his achievements will provide the first and most far-reaching pay-off.

Coral Morgan-Thomas is a director of the consultancy company Role Management, of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. The company specializes in occupational counselling.

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BBC APPOINTMENTS

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News and Current Affairs

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£14,725 - £19,115**
Edinburgh

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£13,500 - £18,300**
Glasgow and/or Edinburgh

PRODUCER

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To work as one of a team of Producers for Radio Scotland's News and Current Affairs outlets. Journalistic experience, familiarity with broadcasting techniques, the ability to work quickly and accurately under pressure, a knowledge of Scottish affairs and a good microphone voice needed. (Ref. 6926/T)

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Sound news sense, the ability to work quickly and accurately under pressure, familiarity with broadcasting techniques, a knowledge of Scottish affairs and a good broadcasting voice needed. (Ref. 6927/T)

The BBC's Asian Programmes Unit, based at Pebble Mill in Birmingham, is looking for a Series Producer to run a new weekly magazine programme.

This is a particularly important development. The new programme will be entirely English language. Its brief is wide-ranging. It will include foreign as well as home coverage, a lively presentation and a recognition of the changing face of Britain's Asian community.

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You will need wide experience in television production, preferably in current affairs or magazine programmes; sound editorial judgement; the ability to lead and manage a team; and wide knowledge of the Asian community. (Ref. 5643/T)

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Your product responsibilities are in the area of thermal transfer printing media, incorporating my client's novel material for recording full-colour photographic-quality images from a variety of electronic sources. For this position, experience in electronic printers or reprographics would be of great interest to my Client.

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Applications, with a short career summary, should be made by Thursday, 9th April 1987 to the Editor-in-Chief, The Universe, 33-39 Bowling Green Lane, London EC1A 9AB.

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The Spanish Commercial Office
Ref. Official Administrativo-Contable,
22, Manchester Square,
London W1M 5AP,
Closing date: 20.03.87

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Further details from the Staffing Officer, United Medical & Dental Schools, St Thomas's Campus, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH, tel: 01-928 9292, extension 3209, to whom applications in the form of a curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees should be sent by 10 April 1987.



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an MBA (or equivalent) with a specialisation in finance and accounting plus several years' management experience in mainstream finance, ideally including a period as a finance director or controller.

* Corporate Strategy/Business Planning -

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CVs that meet these requirements, together with current remuneration details should be forwarded to our recruitment consultant, Sharon Case, at Moxon Dolphin & Kerby, 178-202 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6JJ. Telephone: 01-631 4647.

HH HARBRIDGE HOUSE

The East End of Glasgow has experienced major changes in recent years and has a renewed vitality and confidence primarily as a result of 10 years of the GEAR project. However a sustained commitment to economic development, training and the creation of employment remains critical to the future well being of the area.

The East End Executive is a new organisation being established by a number of powerful backers from both the private and public sectors to help improve the business economy of the area and create employment.

It will provide a wide range of business development services and assistance, including the pro-

motion of training and will be involved in the setting up of new and innovative projects for business start-ups, expansions, new investments and the development of enterprise in the local community.

To lead this vital organisation there is now a requirement for an individual of calibre, foresight and determination who will take full responsibility for the overall management of the new initiative.

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You could come from a wide variety of backgrounds, but essentially should be business orientated capable of handling substantial delegated responsibility and have

the initiative to seek out and develop all types of opportunities. Negotiating

and communication skills of the highest level are essential, as is an understanding of the management of small and medium companies, the requirements for commercial success and the sources of assistance available.

Please send a full CV quoting reference number TTEE1 within 14 days of the appearance of this advertisement to:

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East End Executive

DAVID SWIFT, HEAD OF PERSONNEL, SCOTTISH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY 120 BOTHWELL STREET, GLASGOW G2 7JP

REGIONAL GENERAL MANAGER

HARROGATE

Yorkshire Regional Health Authority provides strategic management for health services to 3.6 million people delivered through 17 District Health Authorities. The Region employs 70,000 staff and has an annual revenue spend of 783m.

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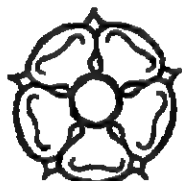
Our prime aim is the improvement of health and health care for people in the Region. We are looking for strong and imaginative leadership of a management team in which the emphasis is on individual accountability for the efficient use of resources. The General Manager is responsible for putting into effect the Authority's decisions

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Please write in the strictest confidence, giving sufficient brief details to justify a preliminary interview, to the Chairman:

Bryan Askew,
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LS24 9SB.
Yorkshire Regional Health Authority



Yorkshire Regional Health Authority

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Further particulars and application forms are available from:

The Bursar,
Pembroke College,
Oxford,
OX1 1DW

to whom applications must be returned by 17th April, 1987.

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You are a Chartered Secretary, probably aged around thirty, with at least three years post qualification experience. You must have a thorough understanding of Company law and some familiarity with pensions administration. Previous experience in the financial services sector would be an advantage. You are looking for additional responsibility and can demonstrate enthusiasm, commercial awareness and the ability to work on your own initiative.

Salary is for discussion according to experience. Benefits include car, non contributory pension, PPP and a subsidised restaurant. Please write - in confidence - with details of career to date and current salary to Lesley Gifford, ref. A.20247.

MSL Chartered Secretary, 62 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0AW.

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To find out more call me, Larry Botham, on (0992) 552552 or write to me quoting Ref. MD1273 at Macmillan Davies, Salisbury House, Bluecoats, Hartford, SG14 1PU.

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Head of Publications and Retailing

The National Portrait Gallery is looking for a highly motivated and creative manager to head its publishing and retailing operations.

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The appointment will be for a period of 5 years, with the possibility of extension, at a starting salary of £15,783 to £17,572 depending on experience.

Telephone or write for application forms to: Judith Donald, National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2H 0HE. 01-930 1552. An equal opportunities employer.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Democratic (Conservative) Group in the European Parliament is seeking a Secretary-General to head its political Secretariat of 40 British, Danish and Spanish staff, based mostly in Brussels. The post is at A2 level, Community scales, i.e. a basic monthly salary of FB 282,000 and appropriate allowances. Candidates, who must possess a good University degree, should be of British, Danish or Spanish nationality. They should have a perfect command of English and a knowledge of other Community languages, preferably French and Spanish. Candidates should also possess some knowledge of politics and of the Community Institutions. This appointment should extend to a minimum of two elections i.e. until 1994.

Applications marked 'Personal and Confidential' should be sent with full C.V. (including details of languages spoken), references, and photograph to:

The Chairman's Office,
European Democratic Group,
European Parliament,
97 Rue Belliard,
1040 Brussels,
Belgium

to arrive not later than 17 April 1987. Further details of the appointment can be obtained from the same address.

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Please write with full cv to Richard Miller at PER, Rex House, 4-12 Regent Street, London SW1Y 4PP.

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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DIRECTOR

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The Cancer Research Campaign invites applications for the Directorship of its Gray Laboratory, Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, which will become vacant on April 1, 1988 on the retirement of Professor Jack Fowler.

The work of the Laboratory is concerned with basic and applied aspects of radiobiology in relation to cancer therapy.

The appointment will be made on the Professional scale. Applications (three copies) with the names of three referees should be submitted to The Director, Scientific Department, Cancer Research Campaign, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AR from whom further particulars should first be obtained.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 15 May 1987.

**Cancer Research
Campaign**

Development Manager with real responsibility

St Ives Foods, based near Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire, is an independent unit of Dalgely's Food Division and a sister company of the Spillers Homebrand operation. We are enjoying increasing success and market presence through our firmly held commitment to providing top quality innovative products. Around 90% of the output is own label, covering fresh and processed meat, poultry products and confectionery.

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This is an ideal opportunity to build on your technical experience in a fast moving company, where both the prospects and rewards are highly attractive.

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In addition to having substantial industry-relevant technical experience, you are a fast thinking, dynamic communicator degree qualified, with a minimum of 5 years' solid and

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Your role will be equally stimulating. Working with the Sector Manager you will take full responsibility for individual products using your skills to develop their exposure further afield. It'll be your task to expand existing markets, as well as those as yet undiscovered.

You are probably aged around 25, a graduate, with excellent technical skills and creative insight. You could be an engineer with experience in a marketing led environment just around the corner. With 2½ years' solid experience behind you, and the yearning for a new career move, you're raring to go.

Fulcrum Communications Ltd has a wealth of opportunities waiting to be explored both in the UK and Overseas. This is your chance to make your mark with us. Join us in our West Midlands offices and benefit from an excellent salary and performance-based bonus package.

Send your full cv to Jenny Heap, Head of Personnel, Fulcrum Communications Ltd, Fulcrum House, 307-317 Euston Road, London NW1 3AD. Telephone 01-388 2373.

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Unit General Manager (Salary £28,050)

The Authority which provides health care services to an urban and widely dispersed rural population of 227,000 spread over 1,614 square miles employs 5,000 staff and has an annual budget of £50 million seeks to appoint a Unit General Manager for the Carmarthen/Dinefwr Health Management Unit who has a demonstrable record of achievement within the N.H.S. or in a large multi-functional organisation. Applications will be welcomed from any discipline.

The Carmarthen/Dinefwr Health Management Unit has a budget of £16 million and employs 1,300 staff and provides both hospital and community services, with the in-patient services presently provided at:

West Wales General Hospital 500 beds
Llanvannor Hospital 18 beds
Carmarthen House 6 beds

The appointment will initially be for a fixed term of three years, renewable subsequently after review by mutual agreement, on an annual basis. The salary includes a 10% discretionary addition to reflect local factors. A successful clinician will be remunerated in accordance with Welsh Office Circular WHC (85) 14 or WNC (85) 47.

Informal enquiries may be made to Mr. John E. Taylor, District General Manager, on (0267) 234501.

An information package and application details are available from:

District Personnel Department,
East Dyfed Health Authority,
Starling Park House,
Johnstown,
Carmarthen,
Dyfed.

Tel: (0267) 234501 Ex. 4091.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 10th April 1987.

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Telephone: 01-422 3488.



Bovis
Bovis Construction Limited

Chief Executive

CARDIFF BAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Secretary of State for Wales proposes to create a new Urban Development Corporation charged with the economic regeneration of a large area of South Cardiff including its docklands.

• THE TASK is to plan and implement an ambitious development programme. This challenging role calls for close co-operation with national and local authorities, developers and potential users and occupants.

• CANDIDATES should be aged over 40, with evidence of success in a comparable role, directing multi-discipline resources.

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J. B. Tomkinson
as adviser to the Corporation

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- Experience in advising a board of directors or an Authority, proposing plans, policies and priorities
- Well developed communication skills
- The ability to manage substantial change
- Leadership qualities
- Preferably a degree or equivalent qualification and are aged 35-55

The Prescription Pricing Authority is a Special Health Authority with a budget of c. £20 million per annum employing around 2,000 staff in its Newcastle Headquarters and eight regional offices. The Authority is responsible for two prime functions:

The examining, checking and pricing of prescriptions and the preparation of payment schedules for the remuneration of chemists and dispensing doctors and providing information on the costs and trends of prescribing and conducting research into the development of improved information services.

The Authority processes some 350 million prescriptions per year at a value of £1.5 billion with data collected via 1,500 terminals linked by ROCC mini computers to 7 Honeywell mainframe computers handling pricing and information tasks.

If you wish to have an informal discussion about this post, please contact Ms. J. Cameron, on 091 2325371.

Further details and application forms are available from the Personnel Officer, Prescription Pricing Authority, Bridge House, 152 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6SN.

Closing date for applications is 21st April 1987.

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HEADQUARTERS

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Internal Audit is an established function providing management services throughout the Board. The Central Audit Team Leader is responsible for the continuing development of the Internal Audit function.

The successful candidate will be expected to make a positive contribution to the development of credit policy, with planning, budgeting, development of staff and management standards and the establishment of a quality control function within Internal Audit. Responsibilities will also include reviewing and advising on the Board's Directives and Procedures and participating in team leader responsibilities.

Applicants should be self-motivated and hard working, showing a willingness and capability to take project through from initiation to satisfactory completion within agreed timescales. They should also be able to communicate well and contribute effectively at all levels.

Candidates should present relevant professional qualifications and be able to demonstrate extensive practical experience of internal audit within a large organisation.

The post is based at Head Office but may involve limited travel to any of the Board's locations. Applications in writing only giving full name, details and correspondence to Group Personnel Office, CBG, Station House, 15 Houghton Street, London EC3A 7AD by 31 March 1987. Outer references T/W/T/J/M/T/T.

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

REGIONAL GENERAL MANAGER

HARROGATE

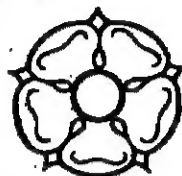
Yorkshire Regional Health Authority provides strategic management for health services to 3.6 million people delivered through 17 District Health Authorities. The Region employs 70,000 staff and has an annual revenue spend of £783m.

Major management changes have been introduced in the last two years at both the Regional Health Authority and in each of its Districts. Our Regional General Manager has made considerable progress in giving a new impetus and direction to the management of the service. He is now returning to his former employer in a top management position, and we look to recruit a successor who will build on the excellent foundation he has laid.

Our prime aim is the improvement of health and health care for people in the Region. We are looking for strong and imaginative leadership of a management team in which the emphasis is on individual accountability for the efficient use of resources. The General Manager is responsible for

putting into effect the Authority's decisions and policies, and improving management performance in meeting objectives. Candidates should be able to demonstrate considerable success at senior level in a major enterprise, and be capable of commanding the support and respect of Authority Chairmen, Members, clinicians and other professionals within the NHS. The salary for the post is £37,000, although a performance related pay scheme is in operation, providing a potential maximum of over £44,000. A higher salary may be available for an exceptional candidate.

Please write in strictest confidence, giving sufficient brief details to justify a preliminary interview, to the Chairman: Bryan Askew, The Old Brewery, Tadcaster, LS24 9SB.



Yorkshire Regional Health Authority

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THE TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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For details and an application form please contact:

Mrs Anita Simmonds,
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The Staff Manager
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